

Province II Council Meeting
October 11, 2013
Diocese of Newark Diocesan House, Newark, NJ

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Provincial Council of Province II of the Episcopal Church was called to order at 9:08 am by Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, President and opened with a prayer by Rosalie Ballatine.

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano, President (LI)
Rosalie Ballentine, Esq., Vice President (VI)
Howard Gondree, Treasurer (WNY)
Richard Carroll, Secretary (ALB)
Martha Gardner, Executive Council Lay Representative
The Rev. Dahn Gandell, Executive Council Clerical Representative (Roch)
The Rev. Issac Ihiasota, Clerical Representative (WNY)
The Rev. Neil Houghtong, Lay Representative (Roch)
Jan Paxton, Provincial Communicator (NJ)
Canon Charles "Chuck" Perfater, Executive Coordinator (NJ)

Absent: The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche, Bishop Representative (NY) – scheduling conflict

Agenda. There were no changes to the items on the agenda.

Minutes. The minutes of the semi-annual meeting of February 8, 2013 and the special meeting of May 30, 2013 were approved as presented. MSC (Ihiasota/Houghton)

Treasurer's Report.

- a. The Executive Council (DFMS) grant has not been received. Canon Perfater contacted the Treasurer's office and determined the Province had failed to submit the most recent two semi-annual financial reports necessary to receive the grant payments. It has been resolved. (Subsequent to the meeting a check for \$10,000 has been received.)
- b. Question was raised if the annual \$10,000 grant to the Provinces is in the Executive Council's budget for next year. Martha Gardner will check next week at the meeting of the Executive Council.
- c. The Province II credit card was temporarily cancelled due to late payment. It was a procedural error in making the payment. Credit card has been re-instated.
- d. Canon Perfater reported on Dioceses payment of assessments. Report was not distributed to members.
- e. It was noted that income and disbursement were tracking in accordance with budget.
- f. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. MSC (Houghton/Ihiasota)

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Regional TEC Staffing Plan. There was a robust discussion concerning the current organizational changes at the Episcopal Church Center and the assignment of Diocese representatives. There were no action items resulting from this report and discussion.

Status of Five Initiatives

- Youth and Young Adult (Convener Neil Houghton). No changes from May 30th report. Canon Perfater passed along a suggestion from Carla Burns, Provincial Anti-racism coordinator, that anti-racism training/awareness might be extended into the youth programs. He also reported that the Episcopal Youth Event is scheduled for July 9 - 13, at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. Bishop Provenzano mentioned the upcoming Union of Black Episcopalian webinar this November 15 and see what is coming out of their work that would be useful for anti-racism awareness for the youth. There were no action items for this initiative. Partial expenses for the attendance of Carla Burns at the *Fifty Years Later: The State of Racism in America* conference in Mississippi were approved.
- Spotlighting Successes (Convener Jan Paxton). Jan reported spotty success in contacting diocesan communicators and this may be a reflection that communicator is a 97th additional responsibility. She receives feedback that communicators receive and pass along **In Prov2**, and at the same time that knowledge of Province II is minimal within dioceses. With the dissolution of the Episcopal News Service Advisory Council and thus, the Province II communicator's status as member of the Provincial Council with voice and vote, two actions were taken:
 1. *Jan will be invited to participate in Provincial Council meetings with voice, but no vote.*
 2. *The Province II ordinances will be reviewed and with recommended changes for consideration at the next Provincial Council meeting.*
- Haiti (Convener Martha Gardner).

Martha's report and discussion focused on how Province II as Dioceses and parishes can make a commitment to Haiti: medical missions, commitments to help rebuild the Cathedral complex; School for Occupational and Physical Therapy, and parish to parish work. Martha also arranged for the Rev. Rosemari Sullivan to talk with us by phone about Haiti support efforts at the Episcopal Church level. There was also discussion of "Haiti relief fatigue" because of the number of requests and from all levels of the Episcopal Church and secular relief organizations.

The telephone call with the Rev. Rosemari Sullivan was cancelled and the Council decided to pursue the following thought: Can Province II help focus ongoing relief efforts to Haiti.

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Action item. Martha will prepare a list of Province II efforts by November 15 in preparation for the next Executive Council meeting.

- Stewardship & Abundance (Convener Howard Gondree). Canon Perfater reported on the TENS Conference held in Salt Lake City this past summer. Province II participants felt it was excellent and that Province II should do something for the Province. A stewardship webinar has been scheduled for Friday, March 28 with the three key speakers from the TENS Conference: Mary McGregor (TX), Tim Dombek (AZ), and the Rev. Jerry Keucher (LI). Expenses will include honoraria for the speakers and webinar setup. A recommendation from the Council was that a dry run be scheduled to ensure hook-ups, etc. are working between all sites.
- Networks (Mission) (Convener Chuck Perfater)

Chuck reported that he, Bishop Provenzano, Neil Houghton, and Martha Gardner met and discussed where the network concept might go, and the end result is the white paper distributed to the Council members and to the Bishops at their retreat earlier in the week.

Chuck reported the status of the following networks within Province II.

- Youth – active
- Young adult – dormant
- Higher education – active
- Ministry development – active
- Antiracism – active
- Companion dioceses – active
- Christian Education – dormant
- Congregational Development – dormant
- Interfaith & Ecumenical - active
- ECW, UTO, ERD, and CPC – active (nationally driven)
- Immigration – dormant
- Missional – dormant...3 clergy who were catalysts have either retired or left Province II.
- Stewardship – inactive, as such, but programming underway

White paper was discussed and following *action items* decided upon.

1. Five Initiatives conveners to flesh out committee members and will serve as liaison to the Provincial Council.
2. Each Provincial Council member will read and provide feedback on the white paper so it becomes a document to guide Province II.

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Budget 2014. The budget was reviewed and the following actions taken:

Under Expenses:

- Line item “title change” to reflect status of Provincial Executive as contractor
 Now “Provincial Executive fee”
- Budget 2014 amounts changes
 1. Provincial Executive Fee decreased to \$25,000.
 2. Networks & Programs increased to \$30,000.
 3. MDGs amount set at \$431.
 4. Provincial Synod set at \$1,000. (This is for any hotel deposits.)
 5. Total expenses is \$70,181.00
 6. Surplus(Deficit) is \$1,917.00

The 2014 Budget, as amended, was approved. MSC (Houghton/Gardner).

The Council approved the 2014 MDG disbursement (\$431) be sent to Episcopal Relief Development (ERD) as an organization that encompasses all of the MDGs. MSC (Gandell/Gardner).

Mission Enterprise Zones Conference(s). The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, Canon for Missional Vitality (LI) gave a presentation on the Mission Enterprise Zones resulting from the actions of the 2012 General Convention and that there is \$100,000 in grants available from the Executive Council. The first step in requesting grant(s) is to participate in an Art of Hosting Conversations & Sharing the Harvest conference. Discussion revolved around how Province II can best facilitate participation in one of these conferences: one large gathering or webinars. The outline for the recent Province I conference was shared with Council members.

Action item: The Rev. Dahn Gandell with assistance from The Rev. Stephanie Spellers will create a committee to arrange an Art of Hosting & Sharing the Harvest conference by December 31 with options for another conference.

Stewardship Webinar. Reported under Stewardship & Abundance.

Provincial Synod. Chuck Perfater reported that he will look into hotels in the Albany area for the 2015 Provincial Synod. He will attempt to find a suitable weekend in May taking into account Mother’s Day and Memorial Day weekends and the General Convention office ability to have staff presenters available. There were no action items.

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Reports

Provincial Bishops' Retreat. Bishop Provenzano reported that all the US based bishops had a wonderful two day retreat at Albany's Christ the King Spiritual Life Center and he commended the center as a great gathering place. The bishops discussed the white paper presented to Provincial Council. The guest speaker focused on Scripture reading and study. There were no action items.

HOB. Bishop Provenzano was on his pilgrimage in Spain and did not attend. Feedback from the other bishops at the retreat was that it was unremarkable because of no rancor, and there was a deepening of conversation. There were no action items.

Executive Council. Information from our representatives to the Executive Council was shared during individual agenda items. It was reported that Rosalie Ballentine was appointed as the Episcopal Church representative to the Anglican Communion. *Action item: Our representatives are to see if the \$10,000 grants to provinces are in the Executive Council budget for 2014.*

Provincial Leadership Conference. Chuck shared a brief history of the PLCs. There is only one meeting per year nowadays, and it is in the greater NYC area to facilitate participation by the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice. Province II is host this year and PLC meeting will be held in Newark.

Diocesan Updates. No reports due to time constraints.

Coordinator's Position. There was discussion of the position and its funding including the necessity of Executive Council \$10,000 grant. Chuck was going to retire, but with the changes in Council leadership, he agreed to stay on. He once again signaled his desire to retire, but with the possible changes in the organization of the Episcopal Church, he has agreed to stay on until after the 2015 General Convention. Action taken:

1. Effective January 1, 2014, the Executive Coordinator will receive a fee of \$25,000 annually. This includes incurred expenses.
2. The Executive Coordinator position in Province II will exist through GC 2015.
3. Jan Paxton will announce the Chuck has agreed to continue as Executive Coordinator.

Next meeting. February 2, 2014.

Adjournment. Following a closing prayer by Neil Houghton, Bishop Provenzano adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.