

**The Second Province  
Minutes of Synod 2012  
May 3-4, 2012**

The triennial meeting of the Second Province of The Episcopal Church convened at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road, Albany, New York on May 3-4, 2012. The business session of the Synod was called to order at 12:35pm by the President, the Honorable Michael Rehill, following a luncheon.

The Agenda was accepted as presented, followed by certification of the presence of a quorum by the Secretary of the Province, the Reverend Edward Thompson. There were bishops and deputies from every diocese of the Province, with the exception of the bishop of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, the Right Reverend Pierre Whalon.

The President announced the following appointments:

The Rev. Edward Thompson and Attorney Rosalie Ballentine as the committee on Dispatch of Business; Bishop George Councell, the Rev. Jerry Keucher, and Attorney Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia as tellers for the elections; and the Rev. Dahn Gandell and Attorney Paul Ambos as the committee on Resolutions.

The Minutes of the Synod of May 2009 held at the Albany Crowne Plaza were approved as presented.

Nominating Committee Report – President Rehill, presenting the nominees, referred deputies to the biographies of nominees and the ballots in deputies' registration packets, and explained the voting procedures. The following correction was made to the ballots: should read Lay Representative to *Provincial*, not Executive, Council. The President called for nominations from the floor. With none, a motion was made and carried to close nominations as presented by the Committee. The Right Rev. Lawrence Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island; Attorney Rosalie Simmonds-Ballentine, Esq., of the diocese of the Virgin Islands; and the Rev. Edward Thompson, also of the Virgin Islands, were presented for the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary, respectively. They were elected unopposed, and a white ballot was cast on their behalf.

The President re-appointed Attorney Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia, Esq., of Albany as chancellor; she was certified unanimously.

The first ballot for the rest of the candidates was cast at this point, and the President proceeded with his report.

President's Report: President Rehill began his report by highlighting the work of the other officers, "people who do the work," beginning with the Executive Coordinator, Charles Perfater. He commended Chuck and the Synod organizing committee for the superb planning and organization of the Synod meeting. Chuck was commended highly for his dedication to the Province. He received a standing ovation. The President proceeded to recognize and thank Bishop George Councill, who resigned as Vice President about a year ago. Bishop Councill was always the calming presence at every meeting, particularly during those moments when emotions rose to the top. President Rehill also thanked the Right Reverend Lawrence Provenzano, incoming President, and noted that the Bishop understands the structure and polity of the Church; is a pastor and administrator, with the requisite qualities. The President thanked his personal assistant, Pamela \_\_\_\_\_ as well, for her dedication and assistance.

President Rehill noted the presence of the deputation from the diocese Albany –not just that we're meeting in that diocese –but also that Bishop Love will be celebrating the Synod Eucharist. President Rehill then thanked everyone else. He received a standing ovation.

Vice President's Report – Bishop Provenzano, the Vice President expressed gratitude for the opportunity to help strengthen networks, mission and ministry, and be a part of the leadership of the Province. He paid tribute to Bishop Councill, his predecessor, who incidentally was assigned as his mentor upon his consecration as bishop of Long Island. "I have kept very quiet and listened in these last 18 months. What is happening in this Province is working, and we should welcome the opportunity to further that work," bishop Provenzano concluded.

The Elections Committee reported results of the first round of balloting: Chancellor Porpeggia reported a total of 78 ballots. Howard Gundree was elected as treasurer. As elections for the following positions was not conclusive, a second ballot would be cast: clerical representative to TEC's Executive Council, clerical representative to Provincial Council, and lay representative to Provincial Council.

Treasurer's Report -- Jerry Keucher – referenced the triennial budget in the registration packets. Diocesan askings are based on diocesan average of reports of three years: 2008, 2009, 2010, with an asking of 0.3% (three-tenths of one per cent). On expenses, the Provincial Council and the Executive Coordinator account for a large chunk of the expenses. Concerns were expressed about the needs of the Province as done through and by the Executive Coordinator, the newsletter, the networks, as well as the ability of dioceses to fund the budget. The sustenance of the budget askings depend on deputies taking back to their dioceses what is discussed and decided here.

The Elections committee again presented their report on the second round of balloting. The Rev. Dahn Gandell of the diocese of Rochester was elected as clerical representative to TEC's Executive Council. The Rev. Canon Dr. Isaac Ihiasota of the diocese of Western New York was elected the clergy representative to the Provincial Council.

With no election after the second ballot for the office of lay representative to the Provincial Council, the President suggested/requested whether one of the three candidates would consider dropping out. Attorney Laura Russell, Esq. withdrew from the slate of candidates. Elections then proceeded between Neil Houghton and Dr. Sandra Michael.

Synod returned to discussion of the motion to adopt the Budget. Several bishops and deputies expressed further concerns about the underlying assumptions of the budget such as the fact that at least three (of the biggest contributing) dioceses have budgeted less than the provincial asking, the motion was passed on a majority voice vote.

The following resolutions were approved for submission to the GC Office:

1. Opposing Dangerous Fracking
2. Condemning the Practice of Wage Theft
3. Restore Funding for the ENEJ

Other Resolutions, and the *actions* taken by the Synod:

1. Condemn the practice of wage theft, ... submitted by the ENEJ (Episcopal Network for Economic Justice), *approved to go to GC*
2. Restore funding for the ENEJ ... *approved to go to GC*
3. Equipping Members for Daily Mission – proposed by Bishop Donovan and the Diocese of New York... *failed to go to GC*
4. Extraction of natural resources ... *approved to go to GC*
5. Amend Title IV, Article 4 ... *failed to go to GC*
6. Bp love remove his name from the *amicus curiae* ... *ruled out of order by Presiding Officer*
7. Congratulations and appreciation to (outgoing?) Provincial officers – *passed unanimously*

A request to recount ballots for election of clergy representative to Executive Council was carried out, but the results as previously announced were confirmed.

On the third ballot for the election of a lay representative to Provincial Council, Neil Houghton was elected.

The Proposed Revised Ordinances, presented by Chancellor Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia, all of which were approved on voice vote.

The Motion that all proposed changes be sent to the secretary of Province at least 30 days before Synod, by Paul Ambos was carried.

The President then called on those Synod members contesting for election to the Presiding Bishop's Nominating Committee. The Rev. Canon Dr. Sandye Wilson (in *abstentia*) and Ms Dianne Pollard announced their intentions.

Synod adjourned at 2:40pm for workshops, Eucharist and Dinner following announcement of the meeting rooms for the various workshops, Eucharist and Dinner, and a request Bishop Provenzano of all bishops to gather later in the evening for brief business of the Provincial House of Bishops.

Synod Eucharist began at 6:00pm with the Right Reverend William Love, Bishop of the Diocese of Albany presiding. The Bishop Co-adjutor of the Diocese of New York, the Right Rev. Andrew Dietsche, preached.

Eucharist was followed by hospitality and dinner in the hotel courtyard, featuring the Diocese of Haiti's rebuilding efforts. Presentations were made by Mrs. Theresa \_\_\_\_\_ from the Episcopal Church Foundation and the Right Rev. Zaché Duracin, Bishop of Haiti.

### **Friday, May 4, 2012**

Morning Prayer was held in the hotel's Capital Room, led by \_\_\_\_\_, followed by a presentation by the Presiding Bishop on "Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the Gift of Episcopate." Bishop Katharine spoke on the challenges for The Episcopal Church in this new century, in view of declining numbers and the rapid rate of change around us. Structural and systemic change in our liturgy, theology, and leadership models, among others, is needed in order to shape us for God's mission. She noted that the Church has passed its "established season" of privileged status in society and is on a downward slide, unless we learn to "die to what has been in the hope of resurrection. If we want to save the life of this church, we're going to have to lose it," the Presiding Bishop concluded.

An orientation on General Convention 2012 was presented by the President of the House of Deputies, Canon Bonnie Anderson and General Convention Executive Secretary, the Rev. Canon Dr. Gregory Straub. Using power point, they spoke of the convention site, available accommodations, convention schedule, and other logistical matters.

Following lunch, "Corporate Re-Structure" was presented by a panel comprising Bishop Stacy Sauls, the Chief Operating Officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; the Honorable Tom Little, Esq., chancellor of the Diocese of Vermont; and the Honorable Byron Rushing of the diocese of Massachusetts and member of the Council of Advice to the President of the House of Deputies.

A brief organizational meeting of the Provincial Council following Synod's adjournment set the next Council meeting for October 12, 2012 in Newark, NJ.

Synod adjourned with the prayer by President-elect, Bishop Lawrence Provenzano of Long Island.