

# 2003 SYNOD OF PROVINCE II PRE-GENERAL CONVENTION MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 2003 to Friday, May 9, 2003  
Century House Hotel, Latham, NY

## Approved Official Minutes

### Thursday, May 8

The House of Deputies was called to order by Vice President Michael Rehill at 2:00 pm. After an opening prayer by Provincial Executive Coordinator David Badgley, the Secretary of Province II, John Rollins, certified that a quorum was present. Vice President Rehill then appointed the following to Synod committees:

Dispatch of Business: The Rev. Earle King (Chair), the Rev. Joseph Jerome, Ms. Dawn Wilkins

Resolutions: The Rev. Anne Hare (Chair) Bishop Skip Adams, Ms. Martha Gardner, Charles Perfater, the Rev. David Robinson

Ordinances: John Goldsack (Chair), the Rev. Ambrose Gumbs, the Rev. Richard Hamlin, Bishop Rodney Michel

Elections: Mr. Richard Simms (Chair), the Rev. David Andrews, the Rev. Rawle Belle, Louie Crew, Bishop Michael Garrison, Ms. June Gerbracht, Ms. Bonnie Tyo, the Rev. Susan Williams

The Vice President then called for the adoption of the agenda. It was so ordered.

The Vice President called for the approval of the minutes of the previous Synod, held May 11-12, 2000, at the Holiday Inn Turf on Wolf Road, Albany, NY. As moved by Louie Crew, seconded by David Robinson, the minutes were approved as presented.

The Vice President led the House of Deputies through the Treasurer's report (Treasurer Michael Francaviglia was unable to attend). Among the several questions raised was the nature of a \$31,000 contingency expense. Michael Rehill promised to get an answer to be included in these minutes. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented subject to audit. Passed.

After the members of the House of Bishops joined the gathering, the Synod was called to order at 3:12 p.m. by President Jack McKelvey. He introduced the members of the Provincial Council and Jan Paxton, editor of the Grapevine.

President McKelvey called for the report of the nominating committee chairman, Bishop Rodney Michel. He placed in nomination the names of Bishop Jack McKelvey, President;

Michael Rehill, Vice President; the Rev. John Rollins, Secretary; Peter Hausman, Treasurer; the Rev. Canon Petero Sabune, Clerical Representative to Provincial Council; Ms. Valarie Crosedale, Lay Representative to Provincial Council; Mary Flad, Executive Council Lay Order; E. Kim Byham, Executive Council Lay Order; Bishop John Croneberger, Bishop for the Provincial Court of Review; the Rev. Frank Hubbard, the Rev. James Brooks-McDonald, the Rev. J. Elton Smith, Clergy for the Provincial Court of Review; Estrada Bernard, George Mackey, Dorothy Jane Goldsack Porpeggia and E. David Robertson as Lay Persons for Provincial Court of Review; and Neva Rae Fox, and Debra Wagner for the provincial representative to the Board of Governors of Episcopal Life.

Nominated from the floor was the Rev. Joseph Jerome as Clergy Representative to Provincial Council. A motion was made, seconded and passed to close the nominations.

With no further nominations, the President called for a motion for the Secretary to cast one unanimous ballot for the uncontested elections. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

John Goldsack was appointed as chancellor and upon motion, confirmed by the Synod.

It was suggested that at future Synods, biographical statements be provided for all uncontested as well as contested elections.

The President introduced Ralph O'Hara, treasurer of the Episcopal Church, who addressed the Synod on the Proposed 2004-2006 budget. The budget for the triennium is to be \$146 million. Questions followed.

Following the presentation, the President offered thanks to the Diocese of Albany for welcoming the Synod in its midst. Thanks also were given to the Diocese of Central New York which is serving as host. He named four "giants" - long-time Treasurer Gwen Carter, Bishop Walter Dennis (previous Vice President of the Province), Bishop Ned Cole and Bishop Paul Moore. He rejoiced in the election of George Councill as Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. He spoke warmly about the work before the Province which is beginning to grow with the work of the Executive Coordinators.

The Vice President gave his report, noting the work of the Provincial Leadership Conference and explaining the procedure to be used in the selection of the candidates for the Nomination Committee for the Presiding Bishop.

Then followed opportunity for members of Synod to speak on behalf of those to be elected in the contested elections.

Michael Rehill reported that the error in the contingency item was explained by a fax received from Michael Francaviglia.. The error was a posting error involving a transfer of funds from one account to another.

Michael Rehill then introduced the 2004-2006 budget. Questions followed. The total for the triennium is \$353,900. An amendment was proposed to add \$8000 per year to the New York

State Episcopal Public Policy Network and the New Jersey State Episcopal Public Policy Network. After much discussion the matter was referred to the Provincial Council for consideration before the final budget is presented.

The meeting was recessed for dinner and the after-dinner address by the Rev. Canon Gene Robinson, Province I Executive Coordinator.

### **Friday, May 9**

The Synod reconvened at 9:00 a.m. with Bishop McKelvey presiding. The Rev. Earle King, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, reported . The committee moved a streamlined agenda. The motion passed.

Richard Simms, Chair of Elections, reported. The following were elected: George Mackey and Dorothy Jane Goldsack Porpeggia for Lay Provincial Court of Review; E. Kim Byham as Representative to Executive Council; and Debra Wagner as representative to the Board of Governors of Episcopal Life. There were ties between the Petero Sabune and Joe Jerome, for clerical representative to Provincial Council; and between Estrada Bernard and David Robertson for Provincial Court of Review, Lay Order. A second ballot was called for.

Michael Rehill reported on a revised budget. The request from the NY and NJ Public Policy Network was included at \$8000 per year, using some unanticipated surplus and modification of previously proposed items to make it balance. The new budget would be \$379,900 for the triennium.

Martha Gardner moved that there be created a new network for public policy within the Province. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed Motion passed. The budget line would read "Province II Public Policy Network".

Michael Rehill moved the 2004-2006 budget. The vote on the budget was called for. Passed.

Historian Mary Sudman Donovan was introduced by Neva Rae Fox to present "Ministry in Crisis Is What We Do", a review of the work of the Episcopal Church following the September 11, 2001, destruction of the World Trade Center.

At 10:00 a. m. the Synod recessed to attend four workshops: "The Gift of Sexuality - A Theological Perspective" led by Bishop Catherine Roskam; "Title III Proposed Revisions" led by Bishop Jack Croneberger; "Committee on Structure and Province IX" led by John Goldsack; and "2020 Program" led by Kim Byham. The workshops were repeated at 11:00 a.m.

Following lunch, President McKelvey reconvened the Synod at 1:30 a.m. Richard Simms, was called to give a report of the Elections Committee. Estrada Bernard was elected to the Provincial Court of Review (Lay Order); Petero Sabune was elected to the Clerical Order of the Provincial Council.

President McKelvey called upon Provincial Executive Coordinator David Badgley and

Provincial Program Coordinator Chris Badgley to give their report. Both expanded on their vision of what can be the Province and some of the plans they have begun to lay for future events.

The Rev. Ann Hare, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, gave its report.

**Resolution 1**

**Resolved** that the Synod of Province II support the resolution of the Diocese of Long Island that urges the Congress of the United States to expand the Temporary Workers Program to cover all persons who enter this country to do legitimate work. This support includes urging the Congress to provide access to education for the children of undocumented workers. Passed

**Resolution 2**

On the death of Mrs. Gwen Carter

**Resolved** that the Synod of Province II extend its sympathy to Tanya DeShields, daughter, and the Diocese of New York, on the death of Gwen Carter, who died January 6, 2003. Gwen Carter was a meticulous treasurer of the Province, long time delegate to the Synod, and recipient of the Bishop's Cross for outstanding Diocesan service. Passed

**Resolution 3**

On the death of the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore

**Resolved**, that the Synod of Province II extends its sympathy to the nine children and nineteen grandchildren of the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore on his death, May 1, 2003. Paul Moore, 13th Bishop of New York, and outspoken advocate for peace and urban justice, never hesitated to use the pulpit to express his vision on social causes and civil rights – his life epitomized a commitment of dedication and service. He was a recipient of military honors and a renowned author. Passed

**Resolution 4**

On the death of Bishop Ned Cole

**Resolved** that the Synod of Province II extends its condolences to the family of the Rt. Rev. Ned Cole, D.D., retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York who died December 16, 2002. Bishop Cole was a significant voice in tumultuous times in the life of our Province during the period surrounding the Vietnam War. Passed

**Resolution 5**

On the death of Bishop Walter Dennis

**Resolved** that the Synod of Province II extends its sympathy to the family of the Rt. Rev. Walter Dennis, D.D. and the Diocese of New York. Bishop Dennis was Suffragan Bishop of New York, one of the founders of the Union of Black Episcopalians, and founder of the Guild of St. Ives, as well as a renowned author and lawyer. We will miss the former Provincial Vice President, who died on March 30, 2003. He offered incisive and appreciated commentaries on the work of General Convention. Passed

**Resolution 6**

**Resolved** that the Synod of Province II offers sincere gratitude to Mary Donovan for her moving and thorough presentation about the reactions of the faith communities, particularly

Episcopalian, in dealing with the aftermath of the 9/11//01 trauma. Passed

**Resolution 7**

*Resolved* that the Synod of Province II graciously thank the Very Reverend George Werner, President of the House of Deputies for his presence at this gathering and for his comments. Passed

**Resolution 8**

*Resolved* that the Synod of Province II extend sincere appreciation to Ralph O'Hara, Treasurer, ECUSA, for his presentation of the Triennial Budget, and his helpful comments and candid answers to questions that followed. Passed

**Resolution 9**

*Resolved* that the Synod of Province II graciously thanks the Reverend Rosemari Sullivan, Executive Officer of the General Convention for giving us a structural overview of what we can expect from July 30 to August 8, 2003, at our General Convention. Passed

**Resolution 10**

*Resolved* that the Synod of Province II thanks the Reverend Canon Gene Robinson, Executive Coordinator of Province I and Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of New Hampshire for his gracious Thursday evening presentation following the Synod dinner. Passed

Vice President Rehill then introduced the Rev. Rosemari Sullivan, who in turn introduced the Very Rev. George Werner, President of the House of Deputies, who addressed the Synod. Following his remarks, Rosemari Sullivan, Secretary of the House of Deputies, presented an overview of the General Convention process.

Rosemari introduced Thom Chu, Youth Ministries Director of the Episcopal Church, who presented information about the role of youth at General Convention, and a video on the programmatic aspects of the Episcopal Church Center, with a preview of an Episcopal ad campaign.

The Synod was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The Synod concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,



The Reverend [John Rollins](#), Province II Secretary