

PROVINCE II OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of Provincial Council
Via Zoom Conference
Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Present (via Zoom): The Reverend Dahn Dean Gandell, President; The Right Reverend DeDe Duncan-Probe, Vice-President; Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Secretary; Canon Phyllis Jones, Treasurer; Canon Noreen Duncan, Lay Provincial Representative to the Executive Council; the Reverend Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn., Clergy Provincial Representative to the Executive Council; the Right Reverend William H. Stokes, Episcopal Representative to the Provincial Council; and the Very Reverend Joell Szachara, Clergy Representative to the Provincial Council

Also present: Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly, Chair of Synod Planning Committee; Ms. Janice Paxton, Webmaster and Editor of InProv2; Ms. Neva Rae Fox, Consultant; and Mr. Phillip Fileri, Esq., Province II Chancellor

Absent: Ms. Yvonne O'Neal, Lay Representative to the Provincial Council

The meeting was called to order by President the Reverend Dahn Gandell at 10:00 with prayer by the Right Reverend DeDe Duncan-Probe.

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the corrected Agenda posted to BaseCamp on March 22 by email by Synod Planning Committee Chair Dorothy-Jane Connolly.

Revised minutes of the January 29, 2019 meeting were on motion (Ambos) approved as distributed.

President Gandell made the following appointments:

Finance Committee: Phyllis Jones (New Jersey) (Chair), Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), Jan Paxton (New Jersey), Brian Romero (Long Island), Grace-Ann Porpegia (Albany), Phillip Fileri (Rochester), and Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)

Synod Planning Committee: The Reverend Dahn Gandell (Rochester), the Reverend Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn. (Western New York), the Very Reverend Joell Szachara (Central New York), and Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey) as additional members

Nominations Committee: The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York)(Chair), Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey), Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), and Canon Noreen Duncan (New Jersey)

Mr. Fileri reported on the aftermath of Provincial Court of Review matters. Bishop Jean-Zaché Duracin resigned jurisdiction on March 1 upon reaching the age of 72, and, since no successor has been elected, the Standing Committee has become the Ecclesiastical Authority. The political situation is delicate, and communications difficult. President Gandell suggested that we reach out to the diocese to the extent feasible.

Mr. Fileri further reported that the new provincial logo has been finalized, and the question is now whether to file for federal trademark protection, the cost of which would be about \$1,300. The Episcopal Church's logo is trademarked but is currently in litigation. After discussion, the meeting

agreed that there is little likelihood of infringement of the provincial logo, and so no filing should be necessary.

Finally, Mr. Fileri reported on the status of the Provincial Court of Review in light of General Convention Resolution 2018-A110 - Amendments to Title IV - Creating a Single Court of Review. He had spoken with Mary Kostel, Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop, who advised that this was addressed by the Executive Council in their February meeting as regards Title IV matters, but the existing structure will need to be maintained for non-Title-IV purposes that are still in the canons. He will check on the status of current Alternates.

Ms. Fox reported on the Provincial Leadership Conference. Provinces are struggling with the future role of provinces, including funding, since the General Convention budgeted no funds for provincial activities. An assessment model is being considered. Topics considered include Anti-Racism/The Beloved Community, Trafficking, and Opioids. A location for the next meeting is being discussed.

Ms. Connelly confirmed that the next Synod meeting is set for April 22–24, 2021, at The Desmond in Albany. It is hoped that Presiding Bishop Michael Curry can attend. We are working to accommodate representatives from Cuba.

Ms. Duncan as Lay Representative to Executive Council reported that the Council met in February. The Joint Standing Committees were restructured into Finance, Governance, Mission Within The Episcopal Church, and Mission Beyond The Episcopal Church. Ms. Duncan is on the Committee for Mission Within The Episcopal Church as liaison to the Executive Council Committee on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. The Committee is very different from its role in the prior triennium. She was also elected to serve a second term on the outreach to The Anglican Church of Canada. Anthony Guillen is the new Canon Missioner for Ethnic Ministries. We are looking to include Cuba in the next Episcopal Youth Event; money issues and travel restrictions pose problems. Bishop Duncan-Probe noted that the Province II Bishops met with Bishop Griselda at the last House of Bishops meeting to see what might be done.

Ms. Connelly reported on Provincial Ministries. She presented the Purpose and Mission Areas document for discussion. Bishop Stokes noted that this is an institutionally-focused document and asked how we could impact the Beloved Community with a more Jesus-focused document concentrating on Jesus and Jesus-love. Following further discussion, it was agreed to accept in principle the Primary Focus Areas of Ministry but to be reworded along the lines put forward by Bishop Stokes.

Treasurer Phyllis Jones presented for consideration the 2019 Province II Budget as circulated. She noted that she had reformatted the budget to make it a balanced budget between income and expenses and including prior years' surplus as available for drawing. The Diocesan Assessments tab shows assessments based on the 0.22% rate approved at the 2018 Synod. On the Administrative tab, the Trademark Logo expense can come out. The Travel tab has General Convention expenses spread over three years. Under the Program tab there was discussion as to the need for additional translation services both for existing documents and for interpreting at Synod for both Spanish and Haitian Creole. These increases were on motion (Jones) approved. On motion (Ambos), the following two resolutions were approved:

Resolved, That the Provincial Council hereby authorizes and approves the President or Vice President, with the approval of the Treasurer and two other Provincial Council members, but without the approval of the remaining members of the Provincial Council, to direct an immediate response to emergencies, natural disaster, etc. occurring with the Province, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 per occurrence. Further, the Treasurer, with the approval of the President or Vice-President, is authorized to establish a donation fund with respect to such matters. Any such actions shall be reported to the Provincial Council at its next meeting.

Resolved, That the Provincial Council authorizes and approves for any ministry work supported and approved by the Provincial Council (1) the establishment of donation funds, and/or (2) the use of buttons or other marketing materials, for which there are funds budgeted or available within the Budget.

The budget as amended was approved unanimously. Canon Jones will circulate and post the budget as approved.

Ms. Connelly will send out a poll for a date for the next Provincial Council Zoom meeting in late June.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on consent at 12:02 p.m. with prayer by Bishop Stokes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ambos, Secretary