

PROVINCE II OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of Provincial Council Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Conference
Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Present (via Zoom): The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, President; The Venerable Dr. Walter Baer, Vice-President; the Reverend Jimmie Sue Deppe, Secretary; Lis Jacobs, Assistant Treasurer; The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, Bishop Representative to Provincial Council; Canon Noreen Duncan, Lay Provincial Representative to the Executive Council; the Reverend Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn., Clergy Provincial Representative to the Executive Council; the Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, Clergy Representative to the Provincial Council; Ms. Yvonne O'Neal, Lay Representative to the Provincial Council;

Also present: Ms. Neva Rae Fox, Provincial Coordinator; and Ms. Janice Paxton, Webmaster and Editor of InProv2; Ms. Martha Berry, Esq., Province II Chancellor; and Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly, Chair of Synod Planning Committee

Absent: Canon Phyllis Jones, Treasurer; Mr. Thomas K. Chu, Esq., Lay Representative to Executive Council; the Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate, Province II Representative to Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism.

This is a Regular Meeting of the Provincial Council called by President the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe by notice sent by email by Provincial Coordinator Neva Rae Fox on October 11, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by President Duncan-Probe with prayer. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the Revised Agenda sent by Ms. Fox on the morning of October 13.

Introduction of Provincial Council Members:

All Provincial Council Members gave a brief introduction.

Report from the President:

Bishop Duncan-Probe gave her report: It is wonderful to start this work, and to come together as a Province to support our ministries, and to continue to build Diocesan relationships. And ways we can gather as a Province and support one another. This past year and a half has shown how much we need each other, need collegiality, and to live fully into possibilities as a Province. We are in an in between time as we plan for our Synod in May and General Convention in June. Bishop Duncan-Probe asked if there were questions and Dr. Baer asked if the Synod would be virtual or hybrid, and Bishop Duncan-Probe replied that it is anticipated to be hybrid.

Ms. Connolly shared that Synod in May is budgeted as virtual with limited capacity to come together in-person.

Report from the Treasurer:

Canon Jones emailed us her report – she has updated the 2019-2021 report through the end of September. Three main items of note:

1. Diocesan Assessments – we have not received any new payments of 2021 assessments since the budget updates in May and Synod in September. I think a reminder is in order and am happy to draft one as long as Council concurs.
2. Cash balance – the “Ending Operating Account Balance” at the bottom of the 2021 Actuals column accurately reflects our current cash balance of \$32,062. Hence my comment above.
3. Synod summary – the amounts on the “Provincial Synod” line for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Actuals columns reflect the total Synod expense of \$33,308. As you’ll see, we were significantly over budget for 2021. A separate summary report of Synod expenses (almost exclusively for translation) is also attached for your reference.

The 2022-2024 report reflects the next triennial budget as proposed and approved at Synod. I’ve updated it to reflect the current actual cash balance being carried forward.

A motion was made by Ms. O’Neal and seconded by Canon Duncan; there was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously: A motion was made to have the President of Province II send out a letter of reminder that Diocesan Province II assessments are due for 2021, as well as, the assessment for 2022.

Orientation: Slated for November 10, 2021 @ 10am

Orientation is for new members as well as being open as a refresher for current members. If there are any questions these can be sent to Ms. Fox and Ms. Connolly.

Discussion of Provincial Council Goals:

Bishop Duncan-Probe asked that between now and November/December meetings that we prayerfully consider the goals offered for consideration; if one resonate with us to then commit to helping to lead the goal to completion.

Bishop Duncan-Probe offered for consideration:

- Primary goal of the Province II is to build relationships across the Province
- Empower conversations across the Province
- Workshops in ministry such as, anti-racism, climate care

Ms. Connolly offered for consideration:

- Monthly Worship component where each month a different Diocese in the Province would put together a worship offering that was broadcast to everyone in the Province. This would be a way for us to share our talents and gifts.
- It was suggested that we could also include our Diocesan Youth.

- Bishop Duncan-Probe shared that the Presiding Bishop is willing to be a guest at one of these worship offerings.

Ms. Fox offered for consideration:

- We can't lose sight of the importance of having Translations and Translation services available.

Dr. Baer offered for consideration:

- We have two newer Dioceses, Cuba and Puerto Rico, that we should be intentional in our welcome into the Province II structures.
- Consider how we can be of help to the Virgin Islands and Haiti.

Rev. Canon Ross offered for consideration:

- Strengthen our position with our youth of the Province; think about how to introduce them to Province II and the National Church structures and how these work together locally.

Discussion: frequency of Council meetings; possible selection of dates

It was agreed that we should meet monthly, and that Ms. Fox will send out a Doodle Poll to find best dates/times to meet.

Keep in mind that House of Bishops go on Retreat March 10-11; Deputies of Color meet in March.

Council will meet in:

- Late November (focus on which goals to move forward with; pick workshop topics/find really good speakers for topics chosen)
- Early December (focus on goals to move forward with; pick workshop topics/find really good speakers for topics chosen)
- January
- February
- March
- April
- May 5 – Synod
- June – General Convention

Discussion: preparing for Synod 2022 on May 5

- Think about topics, then begin to get the programs ready in January.
- Ms. Fox will send out email about Synod on May 5, 2021.
- Need to let our Translation Team know the dates now so that they will be available.

Discussion: preparing for General Convention

- Ms. Fox let us know to watch for a resolution about the funding of Provinces.
- Ms. O'Neal asked us to consider working on a resolution for Executive Council in support of Thursdays in Black (link: <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in->

[black](#)). Ms. O’Neal shared this about Thursdays in Black: In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

The campaign is simple but profound. **Wear black on Thursdays.** Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you.

- Province II would call on the Episcopal Church to be in solidarity with this movement.
- Bishop Duncan-Probe and Canon Duncan will work on a resolution with Ms. O’Neal.

Discussion: Diocese of Puerto Rico update and next steps

In liminal space of Province II moving to accept and then General Convention to confirm Puerto Rico becoming part of Province II. Therefore, at this time there are no next steps.

Constable Grant (see Constable Grant info sent out by National Church below)

A motion was made by Dr. Baer and seconded by Ms. O’Neal. The motion passed unanimously: A motion was that the Diocese applying for a Constable grant would provide Province II with all of the required Constable Grant paperwork one month prior to the National Church deadline, as well as, inform Province to on the first of the month prior to the National Church deadline for the Constable Grant. For example, if the Constable Grant is due December 12. Then the Diocese submitting the grant to Province II would info Council on November 1st of the intent to apply, and then submit all required paperwork on November 12th.

This is a very complex grant and requires the approval and signature of Diocesan Bishops, then Province II has to approve of the submitted grant, and then the Secretary of Province II must complete further paperwork all prior to the National Church Constable Grant deadline.

Other business

No other business.

Next Steps

No other business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on consent at 5:00 p.m. with prayer by Bishop Duncan-Probe.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmie Sue Deppe, Secretary

Applications are open for the Constable Fund grants, which focus on religious education.

The application deadline is Dec. 12.

The Constable Fund provides grants to fund mission initiatives that were not provided for within the budget of The Episcopal Church as approved by General Convention 2018, with a stated preference for work in the area of religious education. The grants are named for visionary philanthropist Marie Louise Constable, who made a gift to The Episcopal Church in 1935, during the Great Depression, to establish the fund.

Constable Fund applications may only be submitted by: (1) applicants approved by one of the nine provinces of The Episcopal Church; (2) an interim body of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church; or (3) a program office or staff department of The Episcopal Church.

The 2021 Constable Fund grants totaled \$213,596, distributed among six recipients. Grants ranged from \$2,500 to \$55,302.