

**Province Two Council Meeting
February 8, 2013
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 9:00am by Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, President.

In attendance were:

The Right Reverend Lawrence Provenzano, President (LI)
Howard Gondree, Treasurer (WNY)
Ms. Martha Gardner, Executive Council Lay Rep (NWK)
The Rev. Isaac Ihiasota, Clerical Representative (WNY)
Neil Houghton, Lay Representative (Roch)
Mrs. Jan Paxton, Provincial Communicator and Representative to ENS
Canon Charles "Chuck" Perfater, Executive Coordinator

The Rev. Shawn Duncan, Guest Leader

The Right Reverend Andrew Dietsche (NY), Rosalie Ballentine, Esq (VI). and the Rev. Dahn Gandell (Roch) were not present due to travel obligations or the extreme weather hitting the Northeast.

Ms. Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia, Chancellor, (A) was also unable to travel.

No changes were made to the Agenda as presented; and the Minutes for the October 12, 2012 meeting were approved as prepared by the former Secretary, the Rev. Ed Thompson, who has resigned due to accepting another cure in Province IV.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck presented the report in the absence of the former Treasurer, the Rev. Jerry Keucher, and due to the fact that the new Treasurer, Howard Gondree, has been unable to effect the transition at this point in time. Howard is confident this will occur within 30 days.

2012: The Province ended up 2012 in much better financial shape than had been anticipated, showing a year-end balance of \$17,669.80. (Not cited at the meeting, this does include \$1500 that had been contributed by the Diocese of NY to aid the Haiti Nursing Training Program, and must be forwarded.)

2013: The 2013 budget has been modified to reflect 1) better than anticipated results in assessment payment; 2) a reduction in General Convention income of \$5,000; and 3) a reserve occasioned by the 2012 under-run.

Diocesan Assessments: Two handouts showing the actual payment of Diocesan Assessments for 2012 and 2013 to date, were shared. The Diocese of NY, it should be noted, has already paid their assessment in full. The handout for 2013 was in error, and a replacement is attached, along with the other financial reports.

Audit – The matter of an audit is still outstanding.

Secretary: It is necessary to have Bp. Provenzano appoint a new Provincial Secretary to serve until the next Synod. The Bishop will chat with the Bishops of Albany and Central NY about candidates and act as appropriate.

Haiti Missioner: The province is in receipt of a grant request from Kyle Evans who has been asked to return to Haiti, to assist Bishop Oge Beauvoir for a three year period. Several years ago the Province provided a \$3,000 grant for her first missionary assignment to Haiti. She seeks a similar grant this year. A series of reports and a bio were distributed and following discussion, a motion that was made by Neil and seconded by Isaac to approve the grant was passed. In essence, the costs are to be borne by the 2012 surplus. Howard mentioned that he might be able to identify additional funds for this cause arising out of a recent bequest in the Diocese of WNY.

Haiti Connections: Doris Crocker, Chair of the Provincial Haiti Network, has requested the financial support (<\$1,000) necessary to attend the Haiti Connections Conference in Port-au-Prince in April. After considerable discussion about how we might take real advantage of attendance at this conference...and due to the pending nature of the primary agenda item for this meeting that will have us review the basis for provincial operations and mission strategy...it was

decided to hold this matter until after today's workshop when we might be more focused on our goals.

Following the workshop it was agreed to subsidize not only Doris's expense, but to send Martha, as well.

Mission Strategy Workshop, facilitated by the Rev. Shawn Duncan (LI)

Following a round of introductions, Shawn outlined the workshop that would consume the next several hours, saying that he was going to help us to become focused on our missional efforts as we head into the next phase of provincial life.

He started by noting that he would take us through a series of exercises to brainstorm our perceived strengths, and weaknesses, as well as the perceived opportunities and threats.

But, first he went around the table seeking our notions about positive experiences in Province II, which revealed the following comments:

- Good relationships and networking
- Regional presence as a valued component of common purpose.
- The province helps lead TEC
- The success of province-wide events
- Our communication tools – InProv2 and the website
- Existing structure has its plusses...and some minuses
- Provides for doing some mission, training and functions locally, but offers the opportunity to do much more on a wider scale, ala stewardship and missional conferences, convocations, specialty networks, etc.

With this as a warm-up, Shawn asked the group to be more specific by identifying our Strengths, which were boarded on newsprint. They included:

- ENEJ and our interest in justice ministries
- Website/InProv2
- Geography, while not as compact as NE, much better than most provinces, notwithstanding the offshore entities.
- Our activities
- Youth ministry

- Our Coordinator
- The Pre-GC Synod
- Diversity
- Commitment and passion of the Provincial Council members
- Haiti
- Proximity to NYC and 815
- Transportation hub
- Our Bishops and their involvement and relational network
- Skilled leadership...at various levels, and well-connected.
- Money

Next, he asked us to enumerate our Weaknesses, which included:

- Geography...travel times and costs
- Difficulty in getting broad diocesan support for all networks and endeavors
- Lack of coordination
- Communication...”what have you done for me lately?”
- Information overload
- Localism
- Over-commitment by some individuals
- Disconnected from our passions
- Lack of Episcopal commitment to some provincial programs
- Some networks are in name, only
- Capacity to focus.

The next challenge from Shawn was to list our Opportunities, which included:

- Meetings
 - Multiple meetings – same location
 - Use of technology – GoToMeeting, Adobe, Skype, etc.
- Church-wide restructuring
- Missional Focus
 - Five Marks of Mission
 - Diocesan focuses underway
- Examine and rebuild our Networks, as necessary
- Capture the strength of our President
- Emphasize the provincial capabilities

- Times are changing
- Demonstrate our value as a center for ministry
- Use of NYC as a media hub...and Trinity WS, also
- Haiti
- General Seminary
- The Church Center – 815
- Diversity of our Episcopal population
- The Occupy Movement

The next step in drawing the picture of who we are was to identify our Threats, which included:

- The mindset of scarcity, fear, failure, etc.
- Presence of independent parallel efforts
- Insistence on uniformity
- “None”
- Arrogance
- Parochialism
- No successor to Executive Coordinator
- Diversity

Before proceeding further we reviewed the Five Marks of Mission

- ✓ **To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**
- ✓ **To teach, baptize and nurture new believers**
- ✓ **To respond to human need by loving service**
- ✓ **To seek to transform unjust structures of society**
- ✓ **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

The next step in the process was to hone our personal choices in an effort to narrow down the numerous items that had been boarded. Each participant was to mark which six statements on the four lists were most important. The desire here was to focus on only three, or four, of the topics and then give them some legs and design some action that is achievable. Also recognized is that it may be time to celebrate and release old processes, to create new ones, or to reaffirm those which are solid and performing well.

The top vote getters, after some consolidation, were:

First –

- Our Mission in Haiti

Tied for second were:

- Stewardship and Abundance
- Spotlighting our Success Stories
- Expand our Youth and Young Adult ministries

Two additional items which garnered a lot of support were:

- Economic Justice ministries
- Missional networks

Further discussion brought us to the point of acknowledging that we need to become much more missional and to take advantage of some of the strengths previously elaborated, such as our Episcopal leadership, our tools for communication, our Synod, and our relationships.

With these factors in mind, teams were created to delve more deeply into the five selected areas with the notion of creating an action plan, based on an outline provided by Shawn. This effort is to happen reasonably quickly by means of the teams working together, in the best modalities possible, in order to prepare for a May (date TBD) video/public conference call to read-out the plans that have been created by each of the teams. Shawn is available to counsel the teams if necessary.

It is recognized that those members of the Council not present will wish to become involved and will self-select which area/s they choose. They can contact the respective convener to get involved. The conveners will call the meetings and see that satisfactory progress is maintained.

Five teams were created and their recommended members are:

The Haiti Mission:

Martha Gardner,
Convener
Isaac Ihiasota
Doris Crocker

Petero Sabune
Bishop Beauvoir
A Church Center
representative

Spotlighting Successes

Jan Paxton, Convener

Shawn Duncan

Matthew Townsend

Other Diocesan Communicators

Stewardship & Abundance

Howard Gondree, Convener

Chuck Perfater

Bishop Provenzano

Jerry Keucher

Youth & Young Adults

Neil Houghton, Convener

Sare (Nee Gordy)

Kai Alston

Jay Phillippi

Myra Garnes-Schuler

Greg Bezilla

Networks

Chuck Perfater, Convener

Martha Gardner

Neil Houghton

Executive Coordinator Position: Chuck handed out two documents – a job description and a listing of desirable skills (attached). Bp. Provenzano will call a special meeting to discuss next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.