

PROVINCE II OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of Provincial Council  
Episcopal House, Diocese of Newark  
Newark, New Jersey  
Friday, March 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Present: The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, President; Canon Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine, Esq., Vice-President; Canon Charles H. Perfater, Provincial Executive Coordinator; Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Secretary; Canon Richard J. Carroll, Treasurer; Canon Noreen Duncan, the Right Reverend R. William Franklin, the Very Reverend Dahn Gandell, Mr. Bert Jones, and the Reverend Gloria E.E. Payne-Carter

Also Present: Ms. Jan Paxton, Webmaster and Editor of InProv2

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 with prayer by President Provenzano. Those present shared moments of grace in traveling to the meeting. Coordinator Perfater reported on former president George Councill's health issues.

Minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2015 were on motion (Duncan) approved as distributed (Ambos abstaining).

Treasurer Carroll presented a budget status report for 2015, a balance sheet for 2015, and a budget status report of January through February 2016. Canon Perfater distributed a sheet of provincial diocesan assessments for 2016. As for the year-end 2015 balance sheet, he noted that the \$10,000 designated for Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry had not been granted and would be carried over. The budget report as of February 29 shows assessment payments to date. A move to receive the budget for 2016 (Ballentine) led to discussion of funding for youth in light of reduced support by the General Convention and to diocesan assessments. Ms. Duncan noted that the 2016 assessment is 0.30% of the last three-year average of diocesan income, rising to 0.33% in 2017 and 0.36% in 2018. Although it was mentioned that the Province had not pressured Haiti, the general sentiment was that we all should pay our assessments in full. The motion carried.

## Reports

Executive Council: Dahn Gandell reported that Executive Council had met in Fort Worth this February. She serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Local Ministry and Mission. The meeting considered funds distribution, ecumenical matters, and other resolutions. Noreen Duncan serves on the Joint Standing Committee on World Mission. Her committee argued for support for ERD and for further inclusion of Province IX dioceses. They discussed racial "reconciliation" — which GC had budgeted \$2 million dollars for last year — but she herself is not sure what this actually means in The Episcopal Church, as opposed to anti-racism projects. She concluded by noting that the next EC meetings will be in Minneapolis in June.

President's Report: Bishop Provenzano reported that he had just attended the House of Bishops, which he says was transformed by the presence of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Discussions dealt with issues of Province IX, diversity, youth, and racial reconciliation. The Diocese of Long Island has formed a Racial Reconciliation Committee, with participation by 148 churches in 148

neighborhoods, to meet in churches, in parks and then in homes. As to reconciliation issues, Bert Jones noted that Bishop Provenzano's diocese is unique in its diversity as contrasted with most dioceses. Bishop Bill Franklin completely agreed with Bishop Provenzano as to the changed culture of the House of Bishops with the advent of Presiding Bishop Curry. His focus on issues of evangelism, reconciliation, and social justice is a model for other bishops. Further discussion took place as to reconciliation efforts in different dioceses within the Province. Bishop Provenzano noted that the House of Bishops in the last decade has realized that it needs to foster diversity in its membership, to the extent that there is a movement within the House not to consent to the election of new bishops unless candidates of color were included in the final election slate. Charles Perfater noted that while good work on the subject is being done within Province II, the future of the Province system is in question, and he encouraged everyone to participate in the online survey and to work to support provinces.

Following a break, the meeting proceeded to diocesan round-ups.

Dahn Gandell reported that the Diocese of Rochester is a better place than it has ever been. The Diocese led a Seeing the Face of God pilgrimage on racial reconciliation.

Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine reported that the Diocese of the Virgin Islands conducted an ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development) workshop, details of which are on the Province II website.

Noreen Duncan reported that the Diocese of New Jersey had recently hired two Canon Missioners, one for Black Ministries and one for developing Hispanic Ministries.

Gloria Payne-Carter noted that the Diocese of Western New York had not been pursuing anti-racism projects prior to the election of Bishop Franklin, but have recently concluded two Seeing the Face of God sessions. There are groups following the Ferguson developments. Congregations are learning about each other by worshipping in each others' buildings.

Jerry Carroll reported that the Diocese of Albany just completed parish leadership conferences on the theme of ministry to the addicted. Planning is underway for the diocesan convention in June with workshops on Abide in Christ, Bear Fruit, and Glorify God. Bishop Love has arranged for Bishop Tom Ely to furnish Delegated Episcopal Oversight for congregations wishing same. Bishop Provenzano added that although he is in a theological minority in the House of Bishops, Bishop Love has "gone the distance" for the Province. His position is respected, and Bishop Provenzano has asked that Albany not be isolated as a diocese.

Bert Jones noted a program in the Diocese of Newark giving Chi care packages to students going away to colleges. The diocese is reexamining the role of its Districts (deaneries) in the functioning of diocesan polity. Diocesan canons have been amended to require anti-racism training for all diocesan offices.

Bishop Provenzano stated that since the House of Bishops meeting Bishop Geralyn Wolf, former Bishop of Rhode Island, will be serving assisting bishop in Long Island during his sabbatical leave, scheduled for June through August of this year.

## Areas of Focus Status

Gloria Payne-Carter is developing a spreadsheet on resources for Substance Abuse and Mental Health issues. She noted Resolutions A158 (Task Force to Review and Revise Policy on substance abuse, addiction and recovery) and A159 (The Role of the Church in the Culture of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse). Some diocesan websites within the Province had alcohol guidelines; mental health issues are not so addressed.

As regards Immigration and Refugee issues she referenced Resolutions D033 (Supporting Refugee Rights in Central America) and D074 (Temporary Protective Status for Immigrants at Risk). She had identified contacts in Western New York, Central New York, Rochester, Albany, New York, Long Island, Newark, New Jersey, and Europe, which is particularly active.

Jerry Carroll had nothing yet to report on Evangelism.

Bert Jones on Justice Issues had spoken with Winnie Varghese and Diane Pollard and was going to follow up with Marie Tatro in Long Island, whose resume he distributed.

Noreen Duncan on Anti-Racism was looking to a model by Carla Burns. According to Jane Oasin, training has done well in the Diocese of New Jersey, but we need to move from training to organizing.

She also has been making contacts for Latino / ethnic / linguistic ministries with Al Wilshire in the Diocese of Long Island and the new Canons in the Diocese of New Jersey. Bishop Provenzano noted that there are growing Asian ministries in New York.

Bill Franklin reported on Discernment and Development of Ordained and Lay Ministry. He is identifying people in his diocese and looking into adaptive re-use. Buffalo has several big old churches that he would like to repurpose for mission stations using foundation funding. There can be some resistance, such as in Lockport, where people used the zoning board to block projects such as a pet cemetery.

Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine on Christian Formation is looking to find who does this in the various dioceses and what Commissions on Ministry do to recruit. She has some contacts through Shannon Kelly at the Church Center. Might there be funding for ministry candidates through UBE and SIM?

Dahn Gandell had identified on Environmental issues Fletcher Harper, Skip Vilas, and Mark Genzler as sources.

Chuck Perfater noted that he had distributed Stewardship flyers at the March convention of the Diocese of New Jersey and would like to extend this to the province in some way. Perhaps streaming workshops on stewardship could be possible, possibly with support from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship.

## Other Matters

Mr. Perfater noted that Provincial Coordinators have a monthly conference, including (with a translator) Province IX, to discuss common issues. Efforts are made to develop relationships

between Province IX diocese and stateside dioceses as well as the DFMS. Bishop Lloyd Allen of Honduras is taking a lead on this.

Bishop Provenzano noted a request for coordination between the Presiding Bishop's council of advice and the Provincial Leadership Council this December in New York City and thereafter in Detroit.

Mr. Perfater inquired about a location of the 2018 Synod. The last one was at the Desmond, and quite possibly this should be the location for 2018.

As to the Executive Coordinator position, in light of Mr. Perfater's impending retirement, Bishop Provenzano said he would invite three members of the Council to investigate possibilities before the next meeting, scheduled for October 14. There may need to be a search committee.

Jan Paxton stated that she is always ready to receive information for the Province II website and is open to suggestions for improvement. If the Areas of Focus shepherds can forward her information, she can add contacts on a networking page.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion (Jones) with prayer at 2:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ambos, Secretary

Documents:

Agenda, ~~October 23, 2015~~ March 18, 2016  
Minutes, October 23, 2015 with Areas of Focus list  
Diocesan Assessments - 2016 - Province II  
Treasurer's Report  
Synod of Province II Budget Report - EOY 12/31/2015  
Synod of Province II Balance Sheet - EOY 12/31/2015  
Synod of Province II - Budget Report as of 29 February ~~2019~~-2016