

PROVINCE II OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of Provincial Council Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Conference
Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Present (via Zoom): The Right Reverend Dr. 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; the Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, Clergy Representative to the Provincial Council; and 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; Mr. Philip Fileri, Esq., Province II Chancellor; and Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly, Chair of Synod Planning Committee

Absent: The Reverend Dahn Dean Gandell, President (on temporary leave)

This is a Regular Meeting of the Provincial Council called by Vice-President the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe by notice sent by email by Provincial Coordinator Neva Rae Fox on October 20, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Vice President Duncan-Probe with prayer. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the Revised Agenda sent by Ms. Fox on the morning of December 1.

Chancellor Philip Fileri reported that he had spoken with Dahn Gandell, who is doing well and hoping to transition back in 2021, although she does not expect to be able to resume her duties as Synod President. The meeting asked Provincial Coordinator Neva Rae Fox to write to her on behalf of the Council offering their best wishes.

Secretary Paul Ambos noted that the revised Ordinances of the Province were in effect as adopted at the Special Synod held September 1, 2020. Minutes of the meeting of March 26 were approved as distributed upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried. The Report on Resolutions Referred to Provinces is due today. The only Resolutions referred were 2018-A081 (An Episcopal Theology of Evangelism), as to which the Province took no action, and 2018-A110 (Amendments to Title IV – Creating a Single Court of Review), where action is ongoing. There was no objection to filing the report.

Treasurer Phyllis Jones displayed and discussed the Profit and Loss statement for Fiscal Year 2020 – Budget vs Actual. Since Diocesan Assessments collected were only \$8,500 versus the budgeted \$48,258, there was a deficit of almost \$6,000. Due to coronavirus pandemic issues, invoices to dioceses were not sent out, and therefore funds not received even though most dioceses had budgeted assessments to be paid. Canon Jones said she would email invoices to the Diocese of New York and any others that needed invoices in order to pay. The Finance Committee was directed to recommend to Provincial Council a form of cover letter for assessments, which on motion duly made, seconded, and carried was authorized to be approved by email vote.

Executive Council representatives reported that as of the November 20 meeting, plans were yet to be announced as to exactly how much General Convention business might be conducted in 2021 and how that might be done. Action on the triennial budget were still to be determined.

Synod Planning Committee Chair Dorothy-Jane Connelly reported for the Nominations Committee that a request for nominations had been announced, and that officers eligible for reelection were expected to be nominated, with Bishop Duncan-Probe to run for President. A Vice-President will then be needed from either the lay or clergy order, possibly bringing in someone from one of the offshore dioceses or Europe. The nominations deadline is December 22, in order to allow for background checks necessary for nominees for the Lay Representative to Executive Council.

She continued to report for Synod Planning. The Zoom synod would take place between April 22 and 24, 2021. A poll of deputies will be sent to ascertain what times within those days would be best for them. A second synod, either virtual or in-person, might be expected for 2022 prior to the General Convention meeting that summer. Workshop ideas for 2021 will be needed, and tech matters will need to be ironed out. The planned meetings will have budgeting implications. Translators are being lined up for Spanish and French for documents and for interpreters during meetings.

Dioceses within the Province have issues. There is no change in Western New York. Haiti communications are unsettled. Cuba has reported communication difficulties due to poor domestic internet, so deputies may have to go off-island in order to participate in Zoom meetings. Albany is awaiting the retirement of Bishop Love. Plans for communicating with Haiti, Cuba, and Europe need to be developed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on consent at 2:12 p.m. with prayer by Canon Johnnie Ross.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ambos, Secretary