

The Second Province  
Also known as The International Atlantic Province  
of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America  
Minutes of Synod 2021  
September 9, 2021

The Provincial Synod was convened via Zoom with preliminary presentations by Canon Steven Welch of the Diocese of New Jersey on Zoom meeting protocols and by John King of the Diocese of Newark on balloting procedures, including a preliminary ballot on persons present for a quorum. The business session was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by the Vice-President and Acting President, the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York, with prayer.

Provincial Secretary Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. reported that a quorum of members was present as required by the Ordinances. Chancellor Philip Fileri, Esq. on behalf of the Committee for Dispatch of Business moved the adoption of the Agenda previously distributed. Discussion ensued on the question of whether time would be allowed to address an amendment to the minutes of the 2018 Synod. The Chair noted that this could be discussed when the minutes were moved for approval. The Agenda was duly approved via Zoom poll. Chancellor Fileri moved the adoption of the Rules of Order as previously distributed, which were duly approved.

Acting President Duncan-Probe announced the following appointments, noting that some of the committees were previously constituted, effective through the next triennium unless otherwise noted:

Parliamentarian

Philip Fileri, Esq. (Rochester)

Chancellor

Philip Fileri, Esq. (Rochester) (through close of Synod 2021)

Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York) (from close of Synod)

Assistant Treasurer

Ms. Elisabeth A. Jacobs (New York) (term coterminous with Treasurer)

Province II Court of Review

Charles Janoff, Esq. (Long Island), President

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche (New York)

The Rev. Marshall Shelly (New Jersey)

The Rev. Diana Wilcox (Newark)

Mr. Eric Sanders (New Jersey)

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin (Western New York) Alternate

The Rev. Mary Ann Brody (Rochester) Alternate

Nominating Committee

The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York) , Chair  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Rochester)  
Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany)  
Canon Noreen Duncan (New Jersey)  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)

Committee on Dispatch of Business

Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), Chair  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey)  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York)  
Mr. Bruce Dunn (Rochester)  
Phil Fileri, Esq. (Rochester)  
Mr. John King (Newark)  
Canon Steve Welch (New Jersey)  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Rochester)

Committee on Resolutions

Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey), Chair  
Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York)  
Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany)  
The Rev. Dcn. Lillian Davis-Wilson (Western NY)  
Canon Noreen Duncan (New Jersey)  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Rochester)

Finance Committee

Canon Phyllis Jones, Chair (New Jersey)  
Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany)  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)  
Ms. Elisabeth Jacobs (New York)  
The Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Rochester)

Synod Planning Committee

Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), Chair  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)  
The Rev. Dcn. Lillian Davis-Wilson (Western New York)

Communications Committee

Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), Co-Chair  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey), Co-Chair  
Canon Phyllis Jones (New Jersey)  
Ms. Yvonne O'Neal (New York)  
Ms. Jan Paxton (Newark)

Ms. Grace-Ann Porpegia (Albany)  
The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate (New York)

Elections Committee

The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York), Chair  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey)  
Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany)  
Canon Noreen Duncan (New Jersey)  
Mr. John King (Newark)  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Rochester)

Tech Committee for Synod

Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), Chair  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey)  
Mr. Bruce Dunn (Rochester)  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)  
Mr. John King (Newark)  
Ms. Nina Nicholson (Newark)  
Ms. Jan Paxton (Newark)  
Canon Steve Welch (New Jersey)

Advisory Committee to Provincial Council

Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany), Co-Chair  
Philip Fileri, Esq. (Rochester), Co-Chair  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Rochester)

Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)  
Ms. Jan Paxton (Newark)  
Ms. Grace-Ann Porpegia (Albany)  
The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate (New York)

Diocese of Puerto Rico Task Force

The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York), Chair  
Ms. Yvonne O'Neal (New York) Vice-Chair  
The Ven. Walter Baer (Europe)  
Canon Rosalie Ballentine, Esq. (Virgin Islands)  
The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate (New York)  
Canon Noreen Duncan (New Jersey)  
Phil Fileri, Esq. (Rochester)  
The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes (Newark)

Translators Working Group

The Ven. Walter Baer (Europe), Chair  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey)  
The Rev. Dcn. Richard Cole (Europe)  
Ms. Dorothy-Jane Connolly (Albany)

Canon Noreen Duncan (New Jersey)  
The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York)  
The Rt. Rev. Mark D. W. Edington (Europe)  
Ms. Neva Rae Fox (New Jersey)  
Ms. Jan Paxton (Newark)  
Ms. Monica Sharp (Europe)

Secretary Ambos moved adoption of the draft minutes of the April 12–13, 2018 Regular Synod as previously distributed, which was duly seconded. Objections were raised by several members who had attended the Synod, who recalled discussion of devoting the expense line previously dedicated to the salary of former Provincial Coordinator Canon Charles Perfater to instead be directed for "social justice" initiatives, which they felt was not adequately set forth in the minutes as distributed. Several proposed amendments were moved and then withdrawn. Following further discussion, on motion of the Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool of the Diocese of New York, duly seconded and carried, the minutes were amended by inserting the sentence "A robust discussion about allocation of a specified amount for social justice occurred." Thereafter the minutes as so amended were approved. On motion of Deputy Wendy Canas of the Diocese of New York, the Secretary was directed to arrange distribution of the minutes of the 2021 Synod more promptly, so that any corrections can be formulated while memories were fresh.

Secretary Ambos moved adoption of the draft minutes of the September 1, 2020 Special Synod as distributed, which motion was duly seconded and carried.

Bishop Duncan-Probe gave the report of the Nominating Committee. The following nominations had been timely submitted through the Committee:

For President (three-year term): The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York

For Vice-President (three-year term): The Ven. Walter Baer, the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

For Secretary (three-year term): The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Diocese of Rochester

For Treasurer (three-year term): Canon Phyllis Jones, Diocese of New Jersey

For Lay Representative to the Provincial Council (three-year term): Ms. Yvonne O'Neal, Diocese of New York

For Clerical Representative to the Provincial Council (three-year term): The Rev. Canon Johnnie E. Ross, Diocese of Rochester

For Episcopal Representative to the Provincial Council (three-year term): The Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes, Bishop of the Diocese of Newark

For Lay Representative to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church (six-year term): two nominees:

Thomas K. Chu, Esq., Diocese of New York, and  
Mr. Tivaun Cooper, Diocese of New York

Secretary Ambos reported that no nominations from the floor had been submitted under the Rules of Order and noted that all nominations were unopposed except for Lay Representative to the Executive Council. He moved the election by acclamation of all unopposed offices, which was duly seconded and passed. The Chair declared them elected.

Bishop Duncan-Probe then gave the President's Report to the Synod.

Mr. John King of the Elections Committee gave balloting instructions for the first ballot, and balloting commenced for the office of Lay Representative to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

Treasurer Canon Phyllis Jones presented a report on financial operations for the triennium 2019 to 2021, with a 2021 comparison to budget. Questions were raised as to the categorization of translation and interpretation expenses, and also support for the Dioceses of Cuba, the Virgin Islands, and Haiti. Bishop Duncan-Probe referred these questions to the Provincial Council to ascertain whether, going forward, these were more properly categorized as "Relationship" items rather than "Program". Following the presentation, Bishop Duncan-Probe ordered that the report be referred to the Provincial Council for audit.

Mr. King reported on the results of the first ballot:

	House of Bishops		House of Deputies	
	Votes Cast		Votes Cast	
	4		58	
	Needed to Elect	3	Needed to Elect	30
Ballot 1	Votes Received	Status	Votes Received	Status
	Tivaun Cooper	1	30	reached majority
	Thomas K. Chu	3	reached majority	28

The Chair declared that there was no election. Balloting was opened for the second ballot.

Treasurer Jones on behalf of the Finance Committee moved the approval for and gave a presentation on the proposed budget for the 2022–2024 triennium. She noted that the diocesan assessments were based on the previous triennium's rate of 0.22% of diocesan income as reported to The Episcopal Church averaged over the prior completed three years, in this case

2018-2020. In response to a question about Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") loans, she responded that if such loans are canceled under the PPP rules, the Episcopal Church treats such loans as income in the year that they are canceled, rather than in the year received. There being no further discussion, the budget was approved as distributed, including the 0.22% assessment formula.

Mr. King announced that balloting had been completed on the second ballot. Several members objected that they were unaware of the opening of voting or were otherwise unable to vote on this ballot. Prior to the announcing of results, on motion of Bishop Glasspool duly made, seconded, and carried, the second ballot was dismissed and a re-vote of the second ballot ordered. Further business was suspended pending completion of balloting.

Following the close of balloting, Mr. King announced the results of the new second ballot:

	House of Bishops		House of Deputies	
	Votes Cast	6	Votes Cast	62
	Needed to Elect	4	Needed to Elect	32
Ballot 2	Votes Received	Status	Votes Received	Status
	Tivaun Cooper	1	28	
	Thomas K. Chu	5	reached majority	34 reached majority

The Chair declared that Thomas K. Chu, Esq. was elected as the Lay Representative to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

Bishop Duncan-Probe called on Canon Ambos as Chair of the Committee on Resolutions for a report. Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2021-1:

*Be it resolved*, That The International Atlantic Province – the Second Province of The Episcopal Church – recognizes (a) the passage of Resolution 2018-A238 of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, which joyfully accepted the request of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* to reunite with The Episcopal Church, effective upon the adoption by The Executive Council of a resolution certifying the completion of various ministerial tasks, and (b) the passage of Executive Council Resolution EXC022020.03, which approved such task completion, and (c) notes that said Resolution 2018-A238, pursuant to Canon I.9.3(a), directed that, following such effective date, the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba be annexed to The Second Province; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Province, meeting in Synod this ninth day of September 2021, officially welcomes with open arms our brothers and sisters of the clergy and laity of the

Diocese of Cuba as a member in good standing of the Province, looking forward to collaborating with them walking forward to achieve the ongoing goals of the Church.

During discussion, Deputy the Rev. Anne Kitch of the Diocese of Newark moved to replace "brothers and sisters" with "siblings", which motion was duly seconded and carried. Deputy the Rev. Karen Davis-Lawson of the Diocese of Long Island moved to correct "*La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*" to "*La Iglesia Episcopal en Cuba*" and to change "the Diocese of Cuba" to "the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba", which motion was duly seconded and carried. Other proposed amendments were either withdrawn or failed to receive a second. The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano moved to call the question on the main motion, which was duly seconded and carried. Thereafter, Resolution 2021-1 was adopted as amended.

Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2021-2:

*Be it resolved*, That the 2021 Synod of the Second Province of the Episcopal Church, the International Atlantic Province, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Rev. Dahn Dean Gandell, of the Diocese of Rochester, for her longstanding commitment and leadership in The Episcopal Church, having served the Province as a Clergy Representative to Provincial Council, member of Executive Council, Provincial Representative of Episcopal Relief and Development, and President of the Province, notably supervising the Haiti Court of Review process and discerning vigorously with the Provincial Council the question of the role of the provinces within The Episcopal Church, her service spanning more than a dozen years as a compassionate and dedicated ambassador of Province II. We thank her for her willingness to serve, and we send her our prayers and best wishes in her future professional and personal endeavors.

The resolution was adopted as presented. Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2021-3:

*Be it resolved*, That the 2021 Synod of the Second Province of the Episcopal Church, the International Atlantic Province, expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Philip R. Fileri, Esq. for his service as Chancellor of Province II from 2018-2021 and publicly recognizes the outstanding leadership he has provided as the Chancellor. His counsel in navigating multiple uncharted matters by giving of his time, talent and legal expertise to further the mission and effectiveness of Province II over the past triennium distinguishes him, honors the Province, and marks a deep commitment to the Episcopal Church. Province II tenders its appreciation and many thanks for a job well done, and we wish him well in all future personal and professional endeavors.

The resolution was adopted as presented. Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2021-4:

*Be it resolved*, That the 2021 Synod of the Second Province of the Episcopal Church, the International Atlantic Province, expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Canon Paul

Ambos, Esq. of the Diocese of New Jersey, for his service as Secretary for two terms, and in particular for his leadership and participation in the revision and drafting of revised Ordinances adopted September 1, 2020, which enabled virtual meetings, for his service as Chair of the September 1, 2020 Special Synod, and for his general wealth of knowledge on matters canonical. We thank him for his willingness to serve, and we send our best wishes for his future professional and personal endeavors.

The resolution was adopted as presented. Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2021-5:

*Be it resolved,* That the 2021 Synod of the Second Province of the Episcopal Church, the International Atlantic Province, expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Central New York, for her service as Vice-President and her gracious and effective assumption of the Acting President role over the past nineteen months, acting with an innovative and positive spirit within the challenges of the pandemic, overseeing the unique Special Synod process to amend the Ordinances, and her continued commitment to all dioceses within Province II, especially those offshore, including provincial visits with longstanding member the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and newest member Cuba, to enhance and create bonds of communication within the Province.

The resolution was adopted as presented. Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2021-6:

*Be it resolved,* That the 2021 Synod of the Second Province of the Episcopal Church, the International Atlantic Province, expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Canon Noreen Duncan of the Diocese of New Jersey for her service and publicly recognizes the outstanding leadership she has provided as Lay Representative to Executive Council. Her leadership distinguishes her, honors the Province, and marks a deep commitment to the Episcopal Church, particularly in the areas of race relations and inclusivity as she has served, and continues to fulfill her term, as Province II's Lay Representative to Executive Council from 2015 until 2022. Province II tenders its appreciation and many thanks for a job well done, and we wish her well in all future personal and professional endeavors.

The resolution was adopted as presented. That concluded the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

Under Old Business, Treasurer Jones opened a discussion related to the previous discussion of the 2018 Synod minutes, seeking guidance in categorizing budget lines going forward. There does not seem to be an accepted definition of the term "social justice ministry". Deputy Adam Hamilton-Ferguson of the Diocese of Central New York suggested "relational and access ministries". This decision will be left to the Provincial Council.

Under New Business, Diocese of Puerto Rico Task Force Vice-Chair Yvonne O'Neal moved Resolution 2021-7 on behalf of the Task Force:



*Be it resolved*, that The International Atlantic Province – the Second Province of The Episcopal Church – under Canon I.9.3(b) of The Episcopal Church, hereby mutually agrees with the Ninth Province of The Episcopal Church, that the Diocese of Puerto Rico be transferred from the Ninth Province to the Second Province, subject to the approval of the General Convention for such transfer.

Bishop Duncan-Probe called on Chancellor Fileri for a canonical and procedural explanation for this resolution. He quoted the provisions of Episcopal Church Canon I.9.3(b) setting forth the process for a Diocese to change Provinces: It could move to an adjacent Province through "mutual agreement" between the Synods of the Provinces. The transfer is "complete" when subsequently approved by the General Convention. The 2018 General Convention passed a resolution inviting Dioceses to reconsider their Provincial membership, and the Diocese of Puerto Rico began such a study in 2019. It asked the Synod of Province IX to allow it to change membership, which that Synod agreed to in April 2021. In July 2021 the Diocese of Puerto Rico held a Special Convention for the purpose of deciding which Province to transfer to. On the sixth ballot, it chose Province II. Resolution 2021-7 should be considered at this Synod rather than deferring the issue to the next Synod in March 2022, because if it is voted down, it would give Puerto Rico time to make another choice. Otherwise, it would not have time for that prior to the July 2022 General Convention.

Vice-Chair O'Neal, who had been present at and had addressed the July 2021 Special Convention, spoke at some length about the vitality and qualities that the Diocese of Puerto Rico could bring to Province II. Puerto Rico already had a history of connection to Dioceses within the Province, and in particular had over the years provided material assistance to the Diocese of Cuba, Haiti, and the Virgin Islands when they had suffered natural disasters. It would make a vibrant addition to the International Atlantic Province. She noted that at the Special Convention, Province IV had lobbied hard to be chosen, yet the Diocese of Puerto Rico chose Province II.

Bishop Duncan-Probe invited the Rt. Rev. Rafael F. Morales Maldonado, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Puerto Rico, to address the Synod. He argued for passage in English and in Spanish.

After further discussion, the Synod approved Resolution 2021-7 unanimously.

There begin no further business, the Synod was dismissed by Deacon Trisha Thorne of the Diocese of New Jersey and adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ambos, Secretary