

The Second Province  
Also known as The International Atlantic Province  
of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America  
Minutes of Synod 2024  
May 9, 2024

The Provincial Synod was convened at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom by the President, the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York with Chaplain Bishop Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany, offering prayer. The business session was then called to order by the President, the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York.

Provincial Secretary Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe reported that a quorum of members was present as required by the Ordinances. Chancellor Martha Berry, Esq. on behalf of the Committee for Dispatch of Business moved the adoption of the Agenda previously distributed. The Agenda was duly approved via digital polling. Chancellor Berry moved the adoption of the Rules of Order as previously distributed, which were duly approved.

President Duncan-Probe announced the following appointments, noting that some of these Committees have been previously constituted, but the following appointments will be effective immediately and through the next Regular Synod, unless otherwise noted.

Parliamentarian

Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York)

Chancellor

Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York)

Nominating Committee

The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York), Chair  
The Ven. Walter Baer (Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe)

The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn. (Western New York)

The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross (Rochester)

Committee on Dispatch of Business

The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Long Island)

Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York)

The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson (Western New York)

Committee on Resolutions

Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey), Chair

Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York)

The Ven. Walter Baer (Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe)

Thomas Chu, Esq. (New York)  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Long Island)

Synod Planning Committee

The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York)  
The Ven. Walter Baer (Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe)  
The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn. (Western New York)  
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Long Island)  
Jose R. Delgado (Puerto Rico)  
The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross (Rochester)  
Thomas Chu, Esq. (New York)

Elections Committee

The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe (Central New York), Chair  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. (New Jersey)  
Martha Berry, Esq. (Central New York)  
Ms. Jan Paxton (New Jersey)  
Ms. Rachel Ravellette (Central New York)  
Mr. Steve Welch (New Jersey)

Tech Committee for Synod

The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe (Long Island)  
Mr. Bruce Dunn (Rochester)  
Mr. John King (Newark)  
Ms. Nina Nicholson (Newark)  
Ms. Jan Paxton (Newark)  
Ms. Rachel Ravellette (Central New York)  
Canon Steve Welch (New Jersey)

Secretary Deppe moved adoption of the draft minutes of the May 5, 2022. Regular Synod as previously distributed. One correction was noted, May 5, 2021 be corrected to May 5, 2022, upon which agreement of this correction, the minutes were adopted.

Mr. Steve Welch of the Elections Committee gave balloting instructions for the first ballot, and balloting commenced for the office of Lay Representative to Provincial Council:

- Adam Hamilton-Ferguson (Central New York)
- Yamilka M. Maldonado Mitchell (Puerto Rico)

and to the office of Clergy (Deacon or Presbyter) Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church:

- Archdeacon Walter Baer (Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe)
- The Rev. Theodora Brooks (New York)
- The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox (Newark)
- The Rev. Luke Fodor (Western New York)
- The Rev. Keith McCoy, Deacon (New Jersey)

First ballot was run.

Secretary Deppe 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 and the Clergy Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. She moved the election by acclamation of all unopposed offices, which was duly passed. The Chair declared unopposed offices as elected.

Video greeting from the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was presented.

Bishop Duncan-Probe then noted that the President's Report to the Synod was previously issued and posted on the Province II website.

Bishop Duncan-Probe introduced Lis Jacobs as the Province II Treasurer. Because of the recent change in treasurers, there is no Treasurer's report or budget to present. As such, Bishop Duncan-Probe called for a special future Province II Synod meeting for the presentation, discussion and possible adoption of the 2024-2027 Provincial Budget. No discussion was had.

Bishop Duncan-Probe thanked the Synod. The date of the Special Synod meeting will be determined and announced later and materials will be shared in advance.

Bishop Duncan-Probe welcomed President of the House of Deputies Julia Ayala Harris. President of the House of Deputies Julia Ayala Harris gave a moving her presentation to the Synod about an important need for accessibility, inclusivity, and safety within the Church.

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

- Lay Representative to Provincial Council: Yamilka M. Maldonado Mitchell (Puerto Rico) elected with majority of votes needed (44 votes received).
- Clergy Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church – a majority was not reached.
  - Two nominees withdrew:
    - The Rev. Luke Fodor, (Western New York)
    - The Rev. Keith McCoy, Deacon (New Jersey)

The Chair declared the election of Yamilka M. Maldonado Mitchell (Puerto Rico) to Lay Representative to Provincial Council. The Chair declared that there was no election of the Clergy Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. Balloting was opened for the second ballot.

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 2024-1:

*Be it resolved*, That The International Atlantic Province – the Second Province of The Episcopal Church – submit the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2024:

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That this 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church call upon all members of the Church to become informed about the injustices of labor trafficking, particularly how it affects migrant youth; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church encourage its dioceses and congregations to engage in educational campaigns that raise awareness about labor trafficking, its signs, and prevention methods; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church advocate for comprehensive and enforceable policies at local, state, and national levels aimed at eradicating labor trafficking and protecting migrant youth; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Office of Government Relations communicate this resolution to the appropriate legislative bodies, urging them to take decisive action against the exploitation of migrant youth.

#### Explanation

This resolution aims to galvanize The Episcopal Church to take a stand against the grave injustice of labor trafficking, focusing on the particularly vulnerable population of migrant youth. The Church is called to uphold the dignity and sanctity of every human being. Labor trafficking infringes upon the freedoms and inherent dignity of individuals, which is contrary to the teachings of Christ and the values of the Episcopal Church. Migrant youth are particularly vulnerable to exploitation due to various factors including economic instability, lack of legal protections, and social isolation. Through education and advocacy, the Church can play a pivotal role in both raising awareness and pushing for meaningful change that aligns with our commitment to justice and compassion for all.

See: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/25/us/unaccompanied-migrant-child-workers-exploitation.html>

The resolution was adopted as presented (59 yes votes, 1 no vote). Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2024-2:

*Be it resolved*, That The International Atlantic Province – the Second Province of The Episcopal Church – submit the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2024:

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements schedule the 82nd General Convention for not fewer than ten days between June 15 and October 15, to include various committee meetings for up to four days prior to Convention, in accordance with the Guidelines set forth in Resolution 1988-A150.

#### Explanation

This Resolution would direct planners for the 82nd General Convention to follow the existing 1988 guidelines for scheduling General Conventions.

The Covid pandemic caused a shortening of the 80th General Convention from the originally planned ten days to four, with no time allotted for legislative hearings during those four days; all legislative-committee hearings were held online in the two months before opening. The 81st is scheduled for six days, but with minimal hearing time other than a single three-hour slot the day before opening, again relying almost exclusively on preconvention online hearings.

Many of the necessary online legislative-committee hearings are held during the working day. This diminishes the voices of those who (a) are not able to sporadically take off work to attend, (b) may not have sufficient computer or smartphone facilities to enable access, and (c) may not have available or reliable internet connections. Those of us who are privileged to be able to participate in the weeks before Convention aren't able to appreciate the plight of those less privileged, and whose voices will not be heard before the opening gavel. When legislative hearings, or final legislative hearings, are held on-site before or during General Convention, everyone who can be present can participate in the legislative process.

The reliance on preconvention online hearings has led to draconian rules-of-order proposals that purport to rule any Resolution (other than as submitted by a Diocese or Province) proposed later than three months before Convention as a "late resolution" requiring special hurdles to allow its consideration. Such a rule is deemed necessary in order to force online LC review before arrival at Convention. This is the opposite of openness and transparency.

Allowing time for complying with the Guidelines for Convention length will foster better deliberative consideration of legislation and allow for the collegiality that was so sadly missing in Baltimore and is likewise reduced in Louisville. The House of Bishops meets often between Conventions; Deputies only have Conventions in which to meet and work together.

If Budget line 513 is insufficient to cover the logistical needs for a ten-day convention (although it was significantly increased from the prior two Conventions), the Executive Council can increase it as necessary.

Document: [https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts\\_resolution.pl?resolution=1988-A150](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=1988-A150)

The resolution was as presented, discussion was had, the resolution was not adopted (25 yes votes, 35 no votes). Mr. Ambos on behalf of the Committee moved Resolution 2024-3:

*Be it resolved*, That The International Atlantic Province – the Second Province of The Episcopal Church – amend Ordinance III, Section 10 of the Ordinances of the Second Province to read as follows (insertions shown by underline, deletions by strikethrough):

There shall be a Committee on Resolutions. Such committee shall arrange and report on (a) any matters referred to the Synod under Canon ~~I.9.11~~ I.9.10 of The Episcopal Church, (b) any Resolutions to be proposed to the General Convention, and (c) any other resolutions to be considered by the Synod.

Explanation:

Canons I.9.10 – .11 (2022) provide:

Sec. 10. Within sixty days after each session of the General Convention, the Presidents of the two Houses thereof shall refer to the Provincial Synods, or any of them, such subjects as the General Convention may direct, or as they may deem advisable, for consideration thereof by the Synods, and it shall be the duty of such Synods to consider the subject or

subjects so referred to them at the first meeting of the Synod held after the adjournment of the General Convention, and to report their action and judgment in the matter to the Secretary of the General Convention at least six months before the date of the meeting of the next General Convention.

Sec. 11. Each Provincial Synod shall keep minutes, journals or other records of its meetings, and shall transmit one copy of the records to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, and one copy to The Archives of The Episcopal Church. The Synod shall also transmit copies of any unpublished inactive records to the Archives.

The Ordinance reference to Section 11 appears to be a typographical error, which this proposal corrects.

The resolution was adopted as presented (52 yes votes, 1 no vote). That concluded the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

Bishop Duncan-Probe called our attention to the video presentation by the Rev. Michael Barlowe, GC Executive Officer which was sent in advance. Bishop Duncan-Probe hopes we have all reviewed it as it is filled with important information.

Synod adjourned at 10:00 a.m. for a brief ten minute break. Synod resumed at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Welch reported on the results of the second ballot:

- Clergy Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church: The Rev. Theodora Brooks, (New York) elected with majority of votes needed (HOD: 28, HOB: 5).

The Chair declared that The Rev. Theodora Brooks, (New York) was elected as the Clergy Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

Bishop Duncan-Probe welcomed CPG President Mary Kate Wold who gave her presentation to Synod. CPG President Mary Kate Wold spoke of the important work of CPG, and she gave overview of CPG, she also spoke to affordability and parity of benefits and between clergy and lay benefits.

President Bishop Duncan-Probe expressed many thanksgivings for the organizing and running of balloting, everyone who assists in Synod, and for everyone's participation in the Synod Zoom meeting. Chaplain Bishop Williamson offered closing prayer and blessing.

There begin no further business, the Synod was dismissed by Bishop Duncan-Probe and adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Secretary