

Report to Executive Council/2020

Percentage of Dioceses Financially contributing at full asking:*

Due to the combination of the following circumstances, in 2020 no assessment letters were sent although a request was recently sent inviting Dioceses to make contributions for 2020 and 2021 as they are able.

1. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting financial uncertainty for congregations and dioceses.
2. Transition in operational model as we re-examine mission and ministry, resulting in reduced operating costs.
3. Sufficiency of current bank balance to meet reduced operational costs.

Even without the ask, 2 of our 12 dioceses have already contributed for 2020 at amounts consistent with 2019. Additionally, a third diocese provided financial support.

Percentage of Dioceses with no financial commitment:*

75%

What energized your provincial ministries this past year? *

At Synod in 2018, we began a visioning process with the hope of clarifying our ministry goals as a province. Over the last two years, the Provincial Council engaged in much prayer and many conversations, among the bishops and the Province as a whole. This good work has greatly increased our awareness of the importance of our provincial ministry relationships and, with this newfound understanding, we have begun to reimagine our provincial ministry as a whole. One of the most energizing, central aspects of this visioning work is our shared desire to include greater diversity of voices, ethnicities, and contexts as we continue and expand our antiracism and racial reconciliation work. Our new logo and Provincial branding reflects the international and diversity within our Province—the International Atlantic Province.

As an example, last year we had planned to offer a virtual worship on June 19. The Presiding Bishop was scheduled to preach and our focus was to be a service of lamentation and repentance for the evils of slavery that are especially significant for our province; our geographic area and relationships include a significant portion of what is commonly called “the slave trade triangle.” Unfortunately, the unexpected crisis associated with the COVID pandemic, as well as Wi-Fi issues and overall pandemic fatigue, necessitated a delay for this service. We continue to hope that in the near future, we will be able to offer our church and the world an opportunity for lamentation, repentance, and a deeper commitment to the sacred work of racial justice and reconciliation.

In addition, working with the Diocese of Cuba and supporting their reintegration with the Episcopal Church and renewing their connection with Province II has been very energizing. In particular, building relationships with the people of Cuba has offered new inspiration for the ways that we might support and learn from one another in ministry. This was especially true when, in February 2020, our Acting President, the Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, was honored to travel to Cuba along with many other representatives of the Episcopal Church to be present in-person for their celebration service. The enthusiastic reception and opportunity for building relationships with the people in the Cuban Diocese was joy-filled.

In addition, we have expanded and developed greater capabilities using social media and electronic platforms. We have updated and expanded our webpage, developed a Facebook

presence, and have seamlessly integrated virtual meetings into our Provincial relationships. The transition to a primarily electronic operation has greatly increased the ability for all participants to attend and take part in Provincial activities, essentially eliminating the geographic barriers that otherwise impeded many people from participating in a variety of our regular meetings. In fact, when the Synod meets this fall, we anticipate electing officers who do not reside in the continental United States knowing they will be able to fully participate in all aspects of our shared ministry.

The bishops of Province II have also utilized social media and electronic communications to better support one another and deepen our relationships. While this has been a great joy, it has also been hard because Bishop Griselda, who was initially able to take part in these collegial gatherings, has been unable to do so over 2020 due to the pandemic and reduced access to Wi-Fi.

What was new in your province this past year?*

Since February 2020, when our President, the Rev. Dahn Gandell, prayerfully discerned a need to step away from active ministry for a time, our Vice-President, the Right Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, began serving as our Acting President. This action was ratified by our Provincial Council at its next meeting on March 26, 2020, and Bishop Duncan-Probe continues to serve as Acting President.

In August 2020, a group of ten people, consisting of a bishop and deputies, representing the on-continent dioceses and a quorum, drove to a convenient location in Harriman, New York for a duly called special Synod meeting. The purpose of the Special Synod was to amend our Ordinances. Those amendments included permitting virtual Provincial meetings, to enable gathering virtually for official Provincial business and electronic voting. As a result, we have been able to approve and continue Provincial work, despite the need to quarantine and isolate. This fall, for the first time, our Synod will be completely virtual, and as a result of that meeting we will be able to participate in a Provincial Synod without limitation. We anticipate this will greatly increase participation from deputations of all of our off-shore dioceses.

In addition, this year's budgetary meetings and preparations for Synod will also be completely virtual allowing full participation across the Province.

This past year the bishops have gathered on a regular basis to provide collegiality and pastoral support for one another, which was especially important given the challenges of pandemic and quarantine.

Our Acting President was pleased to appoint a new representative to the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation (ECCAR), the Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate.

The Episcopal Church is a global entity which is a lived reality in our province. This past year we have made both technical and adaptive changes to more fully live into our global relationships. We have changed our online registration forms to be more hospitable to international addresses and contact information, we have expanded our use of Whatsapp as a way of communicating with our siblings off-continent, and we continue to discover adaptations in our ministry, leadership, and programs that will allow for greater cultural, racial, and ethnic sensitivities.

What specific ministry areas continue to work well in your province?*

In Province II, we have a resolute sense of the importance of our shared ministry, and that mutual dedication and commitment has allowed us to weather a very difficult storm within our church and our world. Province II has a ministry that extends across Europe, the Caribbean, and the Northeastern part of the United States, which in a time of global pandemic presents unique and significant challenges for ministry. In a time when each country, each diocese and convocation and state was struggling to find their footing in this challenging time, our provincial ministry not only held steady but expanded and deepened.

Our ability to adapt and change, to work through challenges and stay in relationship with one another has been a strength, even though this past year has also brought a greater clarity about differences that have been insurmountable as detailed below.

What is a challenge in your province?*

As with other provinces, funding is a challenge, especially considering the elimination of General Convention funding. There is much we dream of doing especially in regards to racial reconciliation and building relationships across countries and cultures, but this necessitates funding for translation, travel, broadband access, and the equipment necessary for online connectivity. Resources to assist with ministry development and mission are also essential. Prior to COVID, our diocesan members in the Virgin Islands were already suffering from the impacts of recent hurricanes. Our financial limitations inhibited our ability to be effective ministry partners with them. This reality is both challenging because of what we could not do to support them, and our sadness with not being able to do more.

The other challenge facing Province II is its vast geographic footprint of 12 dioceses – six in New York, two in New Jersey, Europe (which encompasses five countries), and three dioceses located in the Caribbean. The challenges of offering materials that are translated into so many necessary languages, and that are sensitive to cultural differences, necessarily means significant expenses; yet, these expenses are foundational and also absolutely essential if we are to fulfill our ministry as a province.

With the recent departures of bishops and clergy in the Diocese of Albany, and the ongoing challenges of ministry in the Diocese of Haiti, our province is challenged by the rupture of relationships. As a province we have worked hard to support one another and to affirm the honor and dignity of each person. We have ministered from our love of Jesus, not theological or ecclesiastical agreement. However, despite our best efforts to remain in communion with various individuals within the Dioceses of Albany, and as we await greater clarity and resolution in the Diocese of Haiti, we continue to pray and seek a way of reconciliation and peace in our province.

How is your province walking in the Way of Love?*

In each aspect of our Provincial ministry, we have sought to live out this sacred call to Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. In a year of pandemic and economic challenge, these aspects of our shared ministry have been even more inspiring. The plans for a service of lamentation that followed the sacred journey of Jesus was part of our intention to worship, pray, learn, and go with each part of our province actively blessing us all with their unique voice and story. Even though the service did not happen, the planning generated conversations across continents that have helped us all to learn and to grow as ministry partners.

During the pandemic and subsequent quarantine, we have also encouraged one another to rest, to find opportunities to restore and we have worked together for the safety and well-being of one another.

The Way of Love has been a framework for all aspects of our provincial ministry, especially as detailed above.

What are you working on?*

- We continue to develop closer ties with the Diocese of Cuba and explore ways to connect with them and support them despite the challenges of electronic communication.
- We have been actively involved in translating all our materials into Spanish and French with the help of the Convocation of Europe, despite the lack of funding for the Province.
- We are in an initial conversation with the Diocese of Puerto Rico regarding their desire to join Province II and become part of our shared ministry.
- We will provide ASL translation for our Synod meeting if any participant so needs.
- We are preparing virtual budget meetings for our upcoming virtual Synod
- We are making plans to realize our dream of shared worship experiences begun over a year ago.
- We are also hoping to deepen our relationships across the province by sharing in possible ministry trips, opportunities for mutual support, and regular worship opportunities.

**Please list the percentage of total monetary actual expenses for the following :
Administration and Coordination:***

(Expenditures may be included in more than one category as appropriate to our provincial ministry)
29.7%

Salaries and paid services:*

(Expenditures may be included in more than one category as appropriate to our provincial ministry)
61.4%

Travel and Meetings of the governing of body:*

(Expenditures may be included in more than one category as appropriate to our provincial ministry)

In 2020 meetings were held via zoom, thereby [virtually](#) eliminating travel costs.

In February 2020, Acting-President, the Right Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, travelled to Cuba to participate in welcoming the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba. As part of its contribution to Province II, rather than submitting expenses for reimbursement, the Diocese of Central New York covered these costs.

Direct funding for program and mission activities:*

(Expenditures may be included in more than one category as appropriate to our provincial ministry)
69.9%

Please upload a specific accounting of how the monies distributed through the General Convention were used.*

Funds were not received from the GC budget

https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/provincial_reporting_form