

The Provincial Council [Province Two] Fall Meeting October 12, 2012

The Fall meeting of the Provincial Council of the Second Province of The Episcopal Church began at 9:10am, with prayer led by the Reverend Jerry Keucher, outgoing treasurer. Presiding was the Right Reverend Lawrence Provenzano, President of the Province. The meeting was held at Diocesan House, Diocese of Newark, in Newark, NJ

The Agenda was approved without changes, except a suggestion that minutes of the last Synod be reviewed, not necessarily approved since it is the Synod's purview to do so.

Executive Coordinator Charles Perfater gave a brief orientation for the benefit of those new to the Council: Neil Houghton and the Rev'd Isaac Ihiasota.

Following was introduction of those present:

Bishop Lawrence Provenzano – President

Attorney Rosalie Ballentine – Vice President

The Rev'd Edward Thompson – Secretary

Mr. Charles Perfater – Executive Coordinator

Ms. Jan Paxton – *InProv* Editor and rep to ENS Advisory Board

Ms. Martha Gardner – Executive Council Lay Representative

The Rev'd Jerry Keucher – outgoing treasurer

Mr. Neil Houghton – HoD Lay Representative

The Rev'd Isaac Ihiasota – HoD Clergy Representative

Absent were

Ms. Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia -- Chancellor

Bishop Andrew Dietsche of New York – HoB Rep to Council

The Rev'd Dahn Gandell – Executive Council Clergy Representative

The Minutes of the Winter (January 31, 2012) meeting were approved, with a correction – “Mrs. Jan Paxton” will be Ms. Jan Paxton.

The Minutes of the Spring, 2012 meeting of the Provincial Synod were distributed, with Council deciding that these minutes could be posted to the Province's website, clearly labeling them as unapproved until the next Synod in 2015.

Treasurer's Report

Financial documents were distributed. On the year-to-date report, Treasurer Keucher assured that we are moving away from deficit budgets, with great hope that we're beginning to do better. The Executive Coordinator informed that our share of the General Convention Executive Council pot was about \$6,000 more

than our fair share. There are no provisions for GC and Synod since these are usually self-funded. The issue of funding provincial staff was discussed, and concluded to make the decisions *ad hoc*.

We made a net of at least \$956 on “Province Night” at the 2012 GC in Indianapolis, IN this past summer.

Chuck will send out billings to dioceses right away, as many dioceses are currently preparing their budgets for 2013.

The President, Bishop Provenzano started a discussion on making a case for urging dioceses to not do just the minimum. The Treasurer’s report was approved unanimously.

The Constable Fund

A fund administered by The Episcopal Church Center for staff personnel of the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS), Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards (CCABs), and Provinces for religious education, with grants of up to \$200,000.

A request from Haiti to support their appeal for a grant from the Constable Fund – to install three radio stations in the northern half of the Diocese of Haiti, where the Right Rev’d Ogé Beauvoir is new Bishop Suffragan, was presented. It was moved and seconded to approve and support the Constable Fund Grant Application from Haiti.

Network and Organizational Planning

Executive Coordinator, Charles Perfater, speaking of the upcoming Nov. 29 Missional Conference, reported that the current concern about the lack of prior knowledge about this event was due to his uncertainty about his continuance as Executive Coordinator. President Provenzano asserted, “the framework for missional leadership ought to come from the Province.” If the Five Marks of Mission are going to be our framework, then we need to re-focus. *Let everyone come to our next winter meeting with ideas about this, to come out with tools.* The basic unit of mission in the Church is the diocese – that is the ecclesiology behind this. “We will give you tools for stewardship (and mission); you need to pay for it.”

It sounds like we would need to meet face-to-face for the next winter meeting, as opposed to electronically in order to have such an important conversation. It was suggested, and agreed, to get an experienced facilitator for this strategic planning conversation. The President proposed a priest in his diocese, Sean Duncan. Discussion: find out what dioceses need, how will this benefit them? Bp Provenzano and Sean and Chuck will follow up and organize for this.

Executive Coordinator’s Report was handed out by Chuck, followed by some inquiries for clarification, as well as statuses of Network activities. Some networks have had no activity; some have no chairpersons currently, and most need re-focusing. Council would nominate Carla Burns for the new anti-racism sub-committee of TEC’s Executive Council. An Episcopal Network on Economic Justice (ENEJ) conference is being organized – Chuck is involved with the

planning. Concern was expressed about who in a diocese gets information from the Province.

The Diocese of Central New York has moved from Syracuse to a new office space, in Liverpool, NY.

Executive Coordinator Contract and Search

With Mr. Perfater excused, the President began the discussion with asking the group, “do we want to honor Chuck’s intention to retire?” The following are highlights of the discussion that ensued:

1. Consensus is to give the President, Bishop Provenzano the latitude to negotiate a renewal of Chuck’s contract through the end of 2012, and though summer of 2013.
2. The President will engage in a pastoral conversation with Chuck.
3. The President will appoint a three-person search committee to organize a simple the search process.
4. A direction will be discerned following the new visioning meeting in February, 2013.

Other Reports

General Convention – Jan will review GC decisions/Resolutions and note Province-specific ones for our attention. “Province Night” was a success, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Perfater and the Rev’d Dahn Gandell. Ms. Martha Gardner will review the CCAB appointments and note those appointees who resident in Province Two, as well as search for available grants in the triennial budget for which the Province may qualify.

Executive Council – The Rev’d Canon Petero Sabune stepping down as Partnership Officer for Africa at The Episcopal Church Center.

House of Bishops – Bishop Coadjutor, Andrew Dietsche of New York will become diocesan in February, 2013.

Election for Bishop in New Jersey is in the Spring, with consecration to follow in November; Central NY diocesan center has moved to new site. The meeting of the House of Bishops is in February.

There is conversation going on between the bishops of Long Island and New York regarding cross-licensing clergy in the two dioceses; also envisages eventually working together as one unit in different ministries.

Province Reps to PB Nominating Committee are Bishop Bill Franklin of Western New York, the Rev’d Sandye Wilson of Newark, and Ms. Diane Pollard of New York.

Dioceses – There is a *mustard seed* event happening in Western New York. Long Island will have ministry booths in Spring Convocation; and the Rev’d Stephanie Spellers has been hired as Canon for Missional Vitality also in Long Island. Bishop Provenzano said that the Diocese is willing to share her but by contract she must be in a parish on at least three Sundays in the month. “Vestry anniversary” in Newark is on October 13th. *Drupal* is a website template

being developed in Newark, Jan reported. Virgin Islands adopted a completely revised set of Constitution and Canons that took effect this summer.

The Provincial Leadership Council (PLC), comprising the President, Vice President and Executive Coordinator of each Province is meeting in Boston, 11/26 and 11/27.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55pm, with Council deciding to meet next on February 7-8, 2013.