

Draft 2

Resolved, That Ordinance VI of Province III be amended by the Synod, meeting on May 7, 2018, as follows:

ORDINANCE VI

Provincial Council

Section 1. There shall be a Provincial Council which shall consist of the **four** Officers of the Synod, **one person elected by the delegation from each Diocese (Bishop(s), one clerical Deputy, and two lay Deputies) who is a member of said delegation**, and such other persons elected by the Synod or appointed by the President. ~~following the election of its officers, so that the members of Provincial Council shall consist of no less than three bishops, two presbyters, and two lay persons. The Provincial President may make additional appointments to Council to assure representation from each of the dioceses.~~ The two representatives elected by the Synod as representatives to the Executive Council shall have seat, voice, and vote at meetings of the Provincial Council. **An Officer may be elected as his/her Diocesan representative.** The size of the Provincial Council shall be no less than ~~nine (9)~~ seventeen (17), no more than ~~nineteen (19)~~ twenty-one (21) persons.

Section 2. (a) The Provincial Council shall meet at such times and places (or via electronic means) as may be designated by the President or by concurrent action of the other **three** officers. A member may participate in, and vote at, Council meetings by means of technology where all participants may hear one another simultaneously.

Section 2. (b) The Provincial Council shall have all the powers of the Synod in the period between meetings of the Synod, subject to the Canons of the Church and the directives of the Synod. ~~The Provincial Council may also add such advisory members to its membership as it may deem necessary.~~

Section 3. A quorum shall be a majority of the total of all **the four officers plus the Diocesan representatives plus those appointed or designated** as members of the Provincial Council.

Section 4. The President of the Synod shall preside at meetings of the Provincial Council. In the absence of the President, the Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer (in that order) shall preside. In the absence of all four Officers, those present shall elect a person to preside.

Explanation

The current voting members of the Province III Synod are the active Bishops and one clerical Deputy and two lay Deputies elected or appointed by the respective Dioceses. The Provincial Council, on the other hand, is comprised of the Province III officers, the two persons elected by the Synod to be members of the DFMS Executive Council, and others appointed by the President. What has happened in practice over the years is that the overlap between the two entities, ie persons who are voting members of Synod ***and*** members of the Provincial Council, were few in number. This has resulted in the Council making a decision only to discover that the members of the Synod were not fully informed.

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to improve that situation. If enacted, at least 81% of the voting members of the Provincial Council will also be voting members of the Provincial Synod. Under this proposal the President will no longer appoint a majority of the Provincial Council but will be authorized to appoint two additional members, presumably for the purposes of assuring diversity and continuity.

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