

Province III Synod 2018
Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, West Virginia

The Right Reverend William “Mike” Klusmeyer opened the meeting with prayer at 09:08 am. Bp. Klusmeyer then welcomed everyone.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, *viva voce*, as presented.

Mr. Russell Randle addressed the group in preparation for the elections to Executive Council. He explained that the group will be electing a new clergy representative to Executive Council and that they are like the Vestry of the Province. Such work requires a lot of concentrated time and attention. He calculated it to be about six to eight weeks of time per year committed to this ministry. He urged provincial council representatives to think and pray hard about who they would be electing.

The Reverend Nathaniel Pierce came forward to give his Executive Council report. He said that it's been a great honor to serve as the Province III clergy representative. He believed that he had one success and one failure on Executive Council: His one success was totally unexpected. TEC, in 2015, wanted to get rid of 13 of the 15 standing commissions, all except liturgy and structure. One of the casualties of this was Ecumenical Relations and Interreligious Affairs. Mr. Randle served on Government and Administration. Rev. Pierce worked on World Mission, which dealt with all our relationships around the world, so Ecumenical Relations somehow got steered there. Full communion with the United Methodist Church (UMC) was slated to begin in 2021. Rev. Pierce came back to his diocese and told Bishop Marray that the diocese needed an ecumenical officer. Bishop Marray said, “good idea, you are it.” Rev. Pierce concluded that there needed to be an Ecumenical officer in Province III. The province said “good, you are it.” When Rev. Pierce announced to Executive Council that he was the Provincial Ecumenical officer, he found out that we already have one, and no one knew it. It was the Reverend Maria Tjeltveit from Bethlehem. We now have an ecumenical officer in every diocese in Province III. This will us prepare for full communion with the UMC. Rev. Pierce made a recommendation to the Standing Commission on Governance, Constitutions and Canons that it establish a Standing Commission on Ecumenical Issues and Interreligious Affairs. A few weeks ago, Rev. Pierce learned that his proposition was declined, which is why Resolution #10 is late. His failure, Rev. Pierce believed, related to Resolution #8: Although TEC has dioceses in 15 countries, and we are an international church, we have a systemic problem because we have 852 deputies coming to General Convention. Bu we are missing 36. They are from impoverished dioceses. Third World countries are not able to come with a full deputation. Resolution #8 is a re-submission to General Convention of a resolution proposed in 2015.

Bp. Klusmeyer thanked Mr. Randle and Rev. Pierce for their service to the province.

Bp. Klusmeyer gave the President's Report – We have met by phone more times than he can count. The members of executive council have all worked very hard. He thanked Dr. Pamela Cochran, who came on as Provincial Coordinator a year ago.

Resolutions – [see posted resolutions]

Resolution 1. There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – NONE. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 2 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – Mr. Randle spoke at Executive Council, with no success, about trying to get the church to challenge the travel ban as infringing on the refugee ministries. He warned that sanctuary has no legal significance, and we should not offer false promises of refuge. He encouraged everyone to think hard before passing this resolution. A voice vote could not determine a majority. A show of hands was needed. The resolution passed 17 to 15.

Resolution 3 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – Someone requested that the originators of the resolution speak to it. It was pointed out that there is an explanation at the bottom of the resolution. It is not attempting to circumvent the process. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 4 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – NONE. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 5 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – NONE. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 6 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – Bishop Scanlan gave an anecdotal story. She was officiating at a church service at the Diocesan Cathedral. She could not tell the gender of all three siblings serving as acolytes. The one youth was born as a male, but was transitioning to being a woman. She was a freshmen in college, and was nearly suicidal. One of her friends noticed during the service that she was getting distressed. She took her by the hand, and led her right down the center aisle, outside to the front of the Cathedral. She pointed to the Episcopal flag and Transgender flag. She posted on social media openly that she was feeling very distressed, and that our church confirmed to her that God had made her, and she knew she was home. When the acting Dean wanted to fly this flag, the Bishop thought, "oh my gosh, what will happen?" And this is what happened. She is just offering that story that this is affirmation of our care for these people. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 7 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – Nathaniel Pierce spoke that Diocese of Easton is in the process of celebrating 150th anniversary. When they were looking into the history, they discovered information about Father Paul Watson. He was a truly one of the most remarkable people in the ecumenical movement. The Roman Catholics are in the process of

Canonizing him. This is a real discovery for their diocese and hopefully for the Episcopal church. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 8 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – It is a first step to solve a problem. Hope that a study commission is the first step to solving a problem. It is not an easy problem to fix. Jean Reed has asked if it would be appropriate to make it not so subtle, and to add an additional resolve to point out that it is in fact in regard to Province IX? A representative from the Diocese of Delaware – We do need some explanation. It doesn't need to be too detailed. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 9 - There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – Barbara Miles questioned if this is a resolution or a memorial. This is only for Synod, and not to go to the General Convention. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Resolution 10 – Late Resolution – This was discovered later than the 45 day advance period. It was moved and seconded to allow the late resolution. More than 2/3 approved the late entry. There was a motion from the floor to accept it. It was seconded. Discussion – Leann Walling from Delaware spoke. She doesn't want to sound like she is against it. She is opposed because this was shot down three years ago. It looks like we were supposed to reduce standing commissions. Mr. Randle addressed the fact that these things take a long time. Eddie Vance - he served for six years. Six years wasn't enough time, others take decades. We made the decision to sell 815. It was the wrong decision and it was overturned. We should look at this and this is one body. There may be others at convention that submit similar resolutions. This one deserves to be reinstated. The resolution passed *viva voce*.

Elections – Mr. Scott Norris, Vice President of Province III took over for elections. He has served as Vice President for the past three years. Scott said he has been blessed for the last 7 years of having Ms. Karen Stewart as Treasurer and two excellent representatives to Executive Council (Rev. Pierce and Mr. Randle). They are not officers, but they have served an equal function for those of us who are officers.

The nominated officers for Province III are:

President – Bp. William “Mike” Klusmeyer

Vice President – Rev. Nathaniel Pierce

Treasurer – Ms. Judith Gregory

Secretary – Mr. Robert L. Kilp

There was a motion to close the nominations and it was seconded. Nominations were closed. All four positions were voted and approved *viva voce*.

Executive Council – Scott Slater has withdrawn due to his status of finalist to Bishop of the Diocese of Newark.

Clergy Position nominees for Executive Council (see their submitted materials for biographical information)–

Rev. Chadwick Slater
Rev. Adam Brambley
Rev. David Wacaster

Rev. Patricia Downing, rector of Trinity Parish, Wilmington, Delaware, was nominated from the floor. She is currently the secretary of PB&F.

Mr. Randle clarified that these clergy serve for six years and sometimes clergy get moved to a higher position; therefore, we should also elect someone to serve as back-up in the case the person elected moves out of the province.

Additionally, Mr. Randle moved that if a majority of votes is not achieved, the person with the least number of votes be dropped, and a re-vote taken. That person would be eligible to be voted in as the back-up. The motion was seconded, and approved *viva voce*.

A first ballot was taken and counted, and the Reverend Patricia Downing was elected. Ballots were then cast and counted for the alternate. A majority was not achieved. A total of 14 votes were needed to elect. Rev. David Wacaster had the least amount of votes, so his name was dropped from the ballot. Rev. Chadwick Slater was elected as an alternate.

Proposed revision to Ordinance VI – There was a motion to accept this revision and it was seconded. This basically says you have 2 lay people, one clergy and the Bishop. One of these people should be selected by your diocese to represent at the Executive Council. The revision passed *viva voce*.

Ministry Reports -

- Technology Upgrades at Claggett –Claggett Center has now installed a zoom room, which is possible due to the increase bandwidth the province provided funds for. It has been used by provincial groups a few times already, including the Opioid Task Force. They will also be placing a camera in the larger room to give online presentations. FYI, there are new camp co-directors at Claggett. James and Lisa Marie Ryder came from Camp McDowell in Alabama.
- Opioid Task Force – Rev. Linda Watkins gave an update on the Opioid Task Force. She is the Province III Peace and Justice ministry coordinator. She serves on Opioid Response Task Force. The task force is up to 20 members. DEA special Agent Carl Coulter from the Diocese of Virginia came on the task force and is now co-chair with the Reverend Dina van Klaveren. The task force met twice, once in September and again in February at which time they established a Facebook group. The meeting in February was the first time that Claggett rolled out their new zoom capabilities. The next meeting will be at Claggett on Sept. 11 and 12, 2018. The conference will be from 2:00 pm on Tuesday the 11th to 2:00 pm on the 12th. \$150 to attend in person, or sign-up for Zoom. The task force will discuss funeral planning, liturgy plans, medical care, law enforcement. E-mail the task force secretary, Ms. Susan Beares. Sbeares@gmail.com for more information or look them up on Facebook. There is a link through the Province III website. Mr. Randle asked whether the Opioid antidote Narcan was in all parishes, with training. Bp.

Klusmeyer said he has done it in W. VA. Heads of county health departments have thanked him, and will give free training, and free Narcan. Bp. Klusmeyer recommended that all dioceses look into this with their county health departments. The risk is negligible and the benefit is great. Mr. Randle asked that Bp. Klusmeyer wrote up that information for the other dioceses. He agreed that he will do that.

- Title IV Training – Dr. Cochran spoke of the Title IV training. There was \$8,000 budgeted for Title IV training. National training has still not been rolled out at this time. We had about 100 participants covering several roles in the process, from intake officers to Bishops. It was an incredibly helpful conference. We spent the \$8,000.00 budgeted. Mr. Randle will forward information to Dr. Cochran on a prototype of the national Title IV online training materials, and he urged everyone to give their feedback on it via the provided link.
- Campus Ministry – Rev. Tyler Montgomery – When he took over a year ago, he had outdated lists for all 13 dioceses. He has cleaned up this list, and he held a conference for campus ministers. Last year, 9 people came. This year they had 18 people registered. Tyler is not going to dispense the coffee budget, because there is nobody really to receive it. Ms. Stewart said the Diocese of Maryland could use the coffee money. Dr. Cochran suggested that if any of our dioceses have campus ministries, they could also request portions of the coffee budget directly from her, since Rev. Montgomery is leaving his position as chaplain at William and Mary.
- Youth Ministry – Ms. Joanna Fisher, Diocese of Easton. We are shifting our youth ministry focus. A group of Province III youth attended the Ocean City, MD youth event sponsored by the Methodist church. In the future, we would like to help fund diocesan youth leaders to attend the annual Diocesan Days of Awesome Event. There is also some money available for a couple dioceses to plan joint events, since it is difficult to have everyone attend provincial events that may be far to travel to.

Financial Review – Ms. Stewart gave a financial review. Proposed 2019 Allocation is up by 25%. Three years ago we dropped it down by 25%. We need to do more with youth events and national events. Mr. Randle asked a question about the disparity that shows for the Diocese of Washington, DC. It was because DC said they were not going to pay their allocation. Bp. Marion Budde, EDOW, said that the diocese was not going to pay their assessment. There was a motion to accept the budget as presented. Nathaniel asked for a motion to amend the motion to modify the budget to ask for 1% of N.D.I. Now the motion is moving on with the original motion. The motion was brought to a vote and it was passed *viva voce*.

Karen reported that we have been using the money that was not being used before.

Year end we had \$115,000 in the bank, and we currently have \$94,000 in the bank. We are confident that everyone else will be paying their asking.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as presented, and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed *viva voce*.

Other Business - The Episcopal Church Title IV website is episcopalchurch.tl2.thoughtlab.info

Each diocese was asked to elect their representative to Executive Council from among their Synod delegates and give their names to the secretary. The following dioceses were able to submit the names of their elected representative immediately:

Mr. Christopher Hart – Diocese of PA

Rev. Howell Sasser – Diocese of Central PA

Rev. Sheila Sharpe – Diocese of Delaware

Ms. Alice Joanne Fisher – Diocese of Easton

Bishop Klusmeyer thanked Rev. Pierce, out-going clergy representative to Executive Council, Mr. Scott Norris, out-going Secretary, and Ms. Stewart, out-going Treasurer, for their service. Dr. Cochran presented gifts to both Mr. Norris and Ms. Stewart in appreciation for their service. Rev. Pierce will be coming back to us as Vice President.

Rev. Pierce moved to have Province III send greeting and thanks to Barbara Seras for her eleven years of service as PIII coordinator. The motion passed *viva voce*.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion passed *viva voce*, and Bp. Klusmeyer adjourned the meeting at approximately 3 pm.