

**Province III Provincial Council Meeting
October 28, 2019
Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, West Virginia**

The meeting opened with Morning Prayer, led by Ms. Beblon Parks, President of Province III ECW.

Bishop (William) Mike Klusmeyer opened the meeting by having participants go around the room to introduce themselves. We then had a review of the agenda and acceptance of the meeting norms.

There was a motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting have been approved as corrected.

Bishop Mike thanked everyone for praying for his daughter, Emily. If your diocese is looking for a mission trip, he has information on the table outside the room, in the coal country of West Virginia. He thanked all the Executive Committee persons for the work that they do. He especially thanked Pam for the hard work that she does as coordinator. Province III is showing that there is a real need for Provinces. Our Province is very active, and we are moving in the right direction. Province III is leading the Church, and other churches around the country in the Opioid Crisis. October 28, 312, the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. It marked the beginning of Constantine's conversion to Christianity as the main religion. It also marks when Christianity has become complacent. The question he asks is are we in a Pre-Constantinian or a Post-Constantinian world today? When we leave today, we need to remember that we still have a lot of work to do. He also mentioned that Ecumenical and Interfaith Standing Commission may be getting reinstated.

Steven Jones, the Stewardship and Creation Ministry Coordinator gave his report. He explained "care and creation" and how things work with trying to keep the use of local growing continuing throughout our area and increasing the amount of local sustainable food growing within our Province. Growing food in communities has a higher market value. Some grocers are allocating a portion of their fruit stands to local farmers and growers. He met with Bishop Brown as planned. A local team of advisers will be identified shortly, and the diocese will make a financial commitment to what is now its newest ministry to the diocese. The Rev. Canon Martha Kirkpatrick shared this with him two days ago. She is a former member of the Advisory Council for the Stewardship of

Creation: <https://mailchi.mp/episcopalchurch/care-of-creation-grants-now-availablesubvenciones-para-el-cuidado-de-la-creacin-ya-estn-disponibles?e=55c885835f>. He is drafting a request for funding. He was hoping to assess the

impacts associated with procuring local food throughout the P-III region. Trying to bring in stakeholders from public health. The TEC Creation Care impact grant requires a match. With a contribution from the Diocese the Delaware and P-III's Provincial Council. He is requesting from P-III, \$10k to \$14k. He will talk with the Bishop tomorrow.

John Downey, the new coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations gave his report. The ecumenical representatives get together so that all the denominations work simultaneously. Regarding Full Communion with the United Methodists, the biggest uncertainty is internal issues. Their representative told John that they are in such pain that they don't even want to hear what the Episcopalians think of them. He and Nathaniel have the beginnings of pieces in place. Hopefully things will be clearer before our General Convention.

"Lutherpalian" - Lutheran and Episcopal work is accelerating rapidly. In some cases, the clergy will go to two different conventions. The primary goal is to be central to where they are.

John recently spent 10 days in Rome for John Henry Neumann day. The Anglican delegation was right there in the front row, for everyone to see. There was a female priest in the group. She was not part of the service, but she was there. We are making progress. There is a wonderful and warm, solid relationship in Rome.

We are weaker now, compared to Lutheran and Roman Catholics. The United Methodists are working very hard to have younger people. They are notable for having younger people. He stated, "our younger people are clueless compared to the United Methodists".

In the Episcopal/Presbyterian relations, there is an agreement that there can be some sharing of services, but it is an old agreement.

The Rev. Linda Watkins, Social Justice Coordinator gave her report. The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania hosted a social justice gathering and invited The Rev. Becca Stevens from Thistle Farms. They held various workshops. It was a wonderful event.

Doing more with online presence. She spoke also about Jubilee Centers. We think that they have a place, and they are important to social justice ministries.

She mentioned Ecumenical Advocacy Days. It is four days of social justice networking. They go on Capitol Hill and they get appointments to be able to go and speak to elected officials. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship is another networking group. They know how to buy in with young people. They also offer scholarships.

Linda mentioned a program that CPA has in place. The Sycamore House is a home where five young members of the Episcopal Service Corps live for a year. They do creation care/environmental work, and social justice work. They are an integral part of life in the diocese.

Ms. Beblon Parks, President of the PIII ECW spoke about the work of our ECW. They would love to come and speak to any of our dioceses about ECW. We have a vibrant history. This is our 100th year celebration. PIII ECW has four main areas of focus. Prayer and Worship, Education, Community Outreach, and Service. The theme is Making God's House a home. They invited a speaker, the Rev. Faith Fowler from CUMC. She had asked four questions to the people present. 1) Does your church have the right name? 2) Are there unmet needs in your neighborhood that if you responded to them, would you

be duplicating the services of others? 3) Do you advocate to the poor? If so, describe how you are doing it. 4) In 100 years from now, what would women say you've done that made a difference?

She was questioned whether young people are getting involved with ECW. She responded that it is an ever-growing battle to get younger people involved.

The Rev. Dina van Klaveren and Mr. Karl Colder, co-chairs of the Opioid Task Force gave a report. Dina spoke of Camp Spirit Song which was held at the Claggett Center over the summer. It is a camp for the children affected by the Opioid Crisis in their families. They are children of addicts or parents that are incarcerated. There were some clips from camp that were aired on the BBC production "Addicted – The Opioid Crisis in America". She recommended that everyone take this information back to their dioceses. There are openings for 30 campers next year. Get the word out now. Province III donated money to send a camper last year, from donations take at Provincial Council meeting.

Karl Colder spoke to the group. Karl is a retired officer from the DEA. He spoke of networking with the Lutheran Church. He has also been networking with the A.M.E. Church, because they found out about the work we are doing. He encouraged everyone to read the Farm Bill, as well as the Support Act which works with law enforcement and health care communities.

- The Farm Bill covers the growth of hemp used for manufacture of CBD products. It has been taken out of the controlled substance category.
- Vets now can seek care outside of the VA. They are on both sides of healthcare, and the doctors don't even know it.
- All ministries dovetail into the Opioid Task Force Problem. Karl gave a statistic that 50% affected by Opioid Crisis have some sort of mental health problem. The Support Act directs that the federal government must be as "real time" as possible in prescription drug monitoring. They are currently as much as six months to a year behind in monitoring.

We need to bring in coaches to help us fight this. Tell the world we must be drug free. We need to network with the other denominations.

During lunch break, we continued our meeting in the dining room, hearing from Mr. Russ Randle and The Rev. Patricia Downing, representing Province III at the Executive Council Meeting.

Highlights from Russ included:

- Pilgrimage – National Civil Rights Memorial, Equal Justice Initiative – documents pervasive racial violence, places that violence in context as driver of great migration of African
- Americans from the South to the north and Midwest as if they were refugees shoved into ghettos, essentially refugee camps, recognition of this history is essential to recover from it, because this denial of history is making it hard to reconcile.
- Divestment from several companies – lengthy efforts to engage them, Caterpillar, Motorola, Israel Discount Bank – refused to engage – selling materials to Israel in support of the West Bank occupation

- Also – instructed social responsibility committee to address initial public offering of Aramco – at least 100 billion dollars sought in stock offering early next year; TEC would not buy because of fossil fuel connection; this instructed recommendations about underwriters of stock offering – US investment banks – within 60 days so can determine whether to divest of them
- Budget – Way of Love- significant increase of \$1.3M to underwrite additional revivals
- Lay pension equity – efforts at June meeting to increase and bring more parity
- Waivers – Most dioceses paying the full asking – including PA; most of remainder have applied for waivers, and most waivers are being granted – many in Province 9 because of economic turmoil
- Change in personnel – CLO contract not being renewed; revision of job description, search to be conducted for individual

Patty discussed

- Local training for deacons. Is there any way to partner with another group?
- Rural and Small Parish Ministry – It is cross denominational
- Seminaries are trying to get younger people, but there are a couple factors. 1) Money is one facet 2) Also, we raise them up internally, so are we bringing up our young people through discernment? It's hard, time consuming, but it's needed work. It's part of evangelism.
- Are retired clergy retired? Most of them are not. They are filling a lot of the voids. If they did retire, we'd have a massive shortage of clergy. God bless them for continuing when they retire. That will collapse at some point.
- We need to really look at how do we raise up new leadership, how do we train them, and how do we support them?
- We should have polity in place for “end of life” churches.
- The budget process is already started. In the next few weeks, budget information will become available. The structure will be the same. What are the goals and projections for the next budget? We use 5% of the interest from endowments.
- Is there something The Episcopal Church should be planning to help dioceses with the subject of their buildings?

We resumed the meeting back in the main room. Pam Cochran, Province III Coordinator gave her report.

Pam discussed:

- Title IV training. Most people Zoomed in. People really appreciated the ability to participate in this way. There were two sessions. One was for In-take officers, and one was held for Bishops, chancellors, and church attorneys. It went well. They will try to follow-up more regularly
- We got a nice thank you note for our part in sponsoring a camper at Camp Spirit Song
- Our Web Page is up and running. Everyone should begin to think about a people from your diocese to be part of the network who can get administrative access to open it up.
- College for Congregational Development. Pam would encourage people to go to the Diocese of Maryland website to sign-up.
- More about formation – Pam is going to FORMA conference in May.
- Pam gave an update on all the Provinces and their coordinators. Some Provinces have coordinators, some are not replacing their coordinators, and some are part-time. Province III is probably the most active province, currently. Some of the other Provinces are trying to get their programs back on track. Provinces know they need to work together.

Nathaniel Pierce then commented on the Provinces to add to Pam's discussion. Nathaniel said that each province gets 2 representatives to Executive Council. That means 18 of the 38 representatives for Executive Council come from the Provinces. Provinces do a much better job at selecting a diverse group of representatives to Executive Council than General Convention does. That means that a more diverse group of clergy, lay people, male, female, young, old, racial diversity, etc., are selected at the Provincial level.

We then went to the Treasurer's report. Canon Judith Gregory reported on the balance sheet report. The cash balance at the end of 10/24/2019 is \$70,149.00. The \$3,898 showing in Accounts Payable is the amount due for the pension plan for the Program Coordinator through October 25. This will be paid in November.

- Except for two discrepancies, all apportionments have been paid for 2019
- After registration fees to attend the Synod meeting, the net cost to the Provincial budget is roughly \$2,305.00.
- Under "Anti-Racism/Youth Pilgrimage", at this time, the requests for covering the expenses for the trip (i.e the buses) have not been received, and the cost is well below the budget for the line item of \$5,750.00.
- Expenses for the President and Treasurer are currently covered by their respective dioceses.
- "Website Expenses" is over budget due to not cancelling ACS website expenses sooner.
- The following registrations/events/grants did not take place in 2019 to date:
 - Christian Formation
 - Peace and Justice
 - Ecumenical Relations

The 2019 Projection is a net loss which is \$7,209 covered by the positive bottom line of previous years, meaning that part of the reserve cash is being used to fund this deficit. Going forward in 2020 and 2021, the changes that were implemented should mean we are budgeting very close to what is being expended but leaving a reserve for new initiatives that might arise.

The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce moved that the 2020 budget be approved as it was presented. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Bishop Mike also entertained a motion to accept the treasurer's report. There was a motion and second from the floor. The motion carried.

Ordinances –

After making one grammatical correction, Nathaniel presented amendments to the Ordinances #8 regarding background checks for candidates to General Convention. Russ Randle explained the reasoning for the amendments. This also included making corrections to the numbering of the sections. These amendments need to be endorsed and forwarded from Provincial Council, to Synod for adoption. Nathaniel Pierce made the motion to endorse these amendments and forward them to Synod for adoption. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Vice President's report –

Nathaniel spoke of the time back in 2014 when he came to this meeting, only to find that there were no officers present, nobody knew who was on Provincial Council, there was no official financial report, and the Provincial Executive Committee was in total disarray. Nathaniel was elected to fill the spot of the representative that was elected in 2012 and had resigned. One thing he has learned is that you really depend on the Provinces and Dioceses to know what they are doing. In 2015 Russ Randle came onboard. He and Nathaniel made it a priority to organize the Province. Now look at where we are today. We know who the officers are, we know who the members are, we have a wonderful financial report, we know who our ministry coordinators are, and we are going to need to add more time to the agenda to get in all our reports. It's very significant to get all these reports, and we only had a half hour on our agenda for our reports, and we had two hours of wonderful reports.

Also, the leaders of the 9 provinces get together once per year for the Provincial Leadership Conference. He thinks this is one of the main reasons there is a movement to get rid of provinces. As far as he can tell is that they get together for three days, and it seems they accomplish nothing. He has asked if someone could please summarize what has been accomplished at these conferences over the last 10 years. He still hasn't received any answers. Provinces by and large don't pay any attention to what's been going on at the next level, DFMS, and very rarely submit resolutions to the General Convention. Province III submitted more resolutions to General Convention (10) in 2018 than all the other provinces put together. He personally thinks we have a ministry that's important and we can do a better job sharing that with the dioceses and with DFMS. We can play a more accurate role in shaping the policy of the Episcopal Church in years to come. He hopes that the movement to abolish Provinces has now passed. He and Eddie Vance are going to the PLC in Chicago in November and hope that they can get them fired up to be more engaged. He is proud to be able to go on our behalf.

After Nathaniel was finished with his report, a motion was made to adjourn and was seconded. The motion passed, and Bishop Mike adjourned the meeting.

NOTES:

Upcoming Synod Meeting will be May 3, 2020 through May 5, 2020 at Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV

Next Provincial Council meeting will be held on October 26, 2020 at Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV