

**Executive Summary of proposed changes to the Ordinances of Province III;
to be presented at the meeting the Provincial Council on November 8, 2022,
and then submitted to the Province III Synod on May 1, 2023 (Draft #4)**

Preamble & I – add: “and to provide a community of support for every Episcopalian canonically resident in Province III committed to making a difference for the Gospel.” **I** – clarify name.

II.1 (Composition of Synod) – add retired bishops as per DFMS Canon I.9.6. **II.4 & II.5** – grant seat, voice, and vote to all Officers of and EC Representatives from the Province.

IV.4 (Synod) – re resolutions, add: “A constituent diocese, canonically resident bishop or deputy, or a member of the Provincial Council may submit a resolution for consideration by the Synod.”

V.1 (Provincial Council) – delete an Officer serving as a diocesan representative; explicitly state that the President may appoint up to three voting members.

V.2 – explicitly exclude amending the Ordinances from the authority of the Provincial Council to act on behalf of the Synod. **V.3** – clearly define a quorum for the Provincial Council.

V.7 – (**new**) re the Executive Committee, add: “The President is authorized to appoint up to three additional members with seat and voice, but not vote, to improve the diversity of skills, backgrounds and dioceses represented” (as per 2022 resolution); add authorization to set dates and approve Council/Synod minutes.

VIII.1 (Executive Council Representative) – delete last two sentences (redundant – see Section 8). **VIII.8** – delete first sentence (redundant – see Section 1). **VIII.10** – add “geographically resident”.

X.4 (Nominating Committee) – clarify process for nominations from the floor. **X.5** – add: “... either by regular mail or electronically;” add a requirement that information be posted on the Province III website.

X.6 – (**new**): “If there is not an election for any position on the first ballot by a majority of those present and voting, a second ballot shall be conducted. If there is not an election for any position on the second ballot by a majority, a third ballot shall be conducted. If a third ballot is necessary, the number of nominees shall be reduced to the two candidates receiving the most votes on the second ballot.”

XI (Amending Ordinances) – add: “... either by regular mail or electronically;” add a requirement for posting proposed changes on the Province III website; define who may submit a proposed amendment.

The Process

- a) the sub-committee submits a final draft to all members of the Provincial Council by 10/15/22
- b) the Provincial Council approves a final draft (as may be amended) on 11/8/22
- c) the final draft is distributed to all voting members of the Synod twenty days ahead of time (as per XI)
- d) the Provincial Synod adopts the amendments to the Ordinances (as may be amended) on May 1, 2023.

Submitted to the Provincial Council by the Ordinances/Resolutions committee:

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, Chair	Mr. Christopher Hart, Diocese of Pennsylvania
Mr. Eddie Vance, Diocese of Easton	Mr. Russel Randle, Diocese of Virginia
Mr. Matthew Taylor, Diocese of Washington	

As approved by the Synod on October 26, 2020

(Ordinances previously amended on 4/25/2016, 5/7/2018, and 5/6/2019)

Proposed revisions for 2023 -- Draft #4

PREAMBLE AND ORDINANCES OF THE THIRD PROVINCE

The Third Province has as its goals:

to create and support effective sharing of training programs and ministries among our bishops, clergy and lay people in our dioceses, parishes and interest groups to equip all of us to be better ministers of the Gospel in a secular world; and to provide opportunities for the Province, dioceses and other groups and networks within the Province to influence those people involved in decision-making at all levels of this Church, particularly the General Convention and the Executive Council; ***and to provide a community of support for every Episcopalian canonically resident in Province III committed to making a difference for the Gospel.***

ORDINANCE I

Of the Name

This Province shall be known as the Third Province. The Synod of this Province shall be known as the Synod of the Third Province. ***Province III or Province 3 shall also be acceptable names of this Province.***

ORDINANCE II

Of the Composition of Synod

Section 1. Every Bishop Diocesan of this Church, having jurisdiction within the Province, every Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Provisional, Bishop Suffragan and Assistant Bishop, ***and every canonically resident Bishop within the Province but who by reason of age or bodily infirmity has resigned,*** shall have a seat and vote in the House of Bishops of the Province.

Section 4. Each person holding office ~~or~~ an appointment under the Synod shall have a seat and voice in the Synod but shall not have the right to vote unless such person be a deputy or bishop.

Section 5. Each person serving as an elected Officer of the Synod and the two elected representatives to the Executive Council shall have a seat, voice and vote in the Synod.

Ordinance III

Section 2. The President shall be one of the bishops, presbyters, deacons or lay persons canonically resident in the Third Province and elected by the Synod and shall hold office as specified in Section 1 or until a successor is chosen. The President shall chair the **Synod**, Provincial Council and, ex-officio, be a member of all Standing Committees and Departments. In the case of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or otherwise, the Vice President shall assume the responsibilities of the President until a new President is elected at the next meeting of the Synod. No individual shall serve more than two consecutive terms as President but may be elected again after an interval of three years.

ORDINANCE IV

Of the Meetings and Duties of the Provincial Synod

Section 4. **A constituent diocese, canonically resident bishop or deputy, or a member of the Provincial Council may submit a resolution for consideration by the Synod.** Every debatable resolution **to be** considered by the Synod shall have been submitted in writing to the Secretary no less than 30 (thirty) days before the date of the Synod, unless otherwise admitted by two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote. The Secretary shall distribute the resolutions received to the deputies and bishops at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting of the Synod either by regular mail or electronically. **All resolutions shall be promptly posted on the Province III website.**

ORDINANCE V

Of the Provincial Council

Section 1. There shall be a Provincial Council which shall be comprised of the four Officers of the Province, one person elected by the delegation from each Diocese (Bishop(s), one clerical Deputy to Synod, and two lay Deputies to Synod) who is a member of said delegation, the two persons elected by the Synod as representatives to the Executive Council, and ~~such other~~ **up to three (3)** persons appointed by the President ~~shall have seat, voice, and vote at meetings of the Provincial Council.~~ An Officer may be elected as his/her Diocesan representative. The **number of voting members** size of the Provincial Council shall be ~~no less than seventeen (17); no more than twenty-one (21)~~ **twenty-two (22)** persons. Provincial Coordinators and paid staff persons shall be *ex officio* members with seat and voice but no vote.

Section 2. (b) The Provincial Council shall have all the powers of the Synod (***except for amending these Ordinances***) in the period between meetings of the Synod, subject to the Constitution and Canons as adopted by the General Convention of The Episcopal Church and the directives of the Synod.

Section 3. A quorum shall be a majority of the total of the four officers plus the Diocesan representatives ***plus the two provincial representatives to the Executive Council*** plus those appointed or designated as members of the Provincial Council ***by the President***.

Section 7. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Provincial Council comprised of the four Officers and the two Provincial representatives to the DFMS Executive Council. ***The President serves as chair and is authorized to appoint up to three additional members with seat and voice but not vote, to improve the diversity of skills, backgrounds and dioceses represented.*** The Executive Committee is authorized ***to set the date and location for the meetings of the Synod and the Provincial Council, approve the Minutes of the Council and the Synod, and*** to act on behalf of the Provincial Council provided that all such actions shall be approved and ratified by the next meeting of the Provincial Council or the Synod, which meeting may take place by electronic means if no regular meeting is scheduled within the next ~~ninety (90)~~ ***one hundred fifty (150)*** days.

ORDINANCE VIII

Of the Third Province Representatives on the Executive Council

Section 1. The Synod at its regular meeting in the year of the General Convention shall elect one representative to the Executive Council to serve a term twice the interval between General Conventions. This election shall alternate between the ordained and lay orders, so that the Province is always represented by two persons, one Bishop or Presbyter or Deacon and one lay person. Nominations of persons canonically resident in the Third Province shall be made by the Nominating Committee. A background check of all candidates shall be required. Any potentially disqualifying information, such as criminal charges or convictions, professional discipline, or a history of substance abuse or domestic violence, shall be disclosed first to a potential nominee, and then if the nominee agrees to proceed, to the voting members. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted ***unless the proposed nominee has undergone a satisfactory background check within six (6) months of the Provincial Synod.*** ~~The Secretary shall certify such election to the proper authorities. Terms of office shall commence upon the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the General Convention following election.~~

Section 8. ~~Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted.~~ The Secretary shall certify such election to the proper authorities. The term of office shall commence upon the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the General Convention following election.

Section 10. Persons elected to the Executive Council must remain canonically **and geographically** resident in the Third Province for the duration of their term and may not succeed themselves. Persons elected to the Executive Council shall complete anti-racism training within one year of being elected.

ORDINANCE X

Of the Nominating Committee

Section 4. The deadline for submitting the names of candidates to the Committee shall be no less than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting of the Synod, said deadline to be communicated to all bishops and deputies **at least three times** no less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the meeting of the Synod. ***Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted unless the proposed nominee has undergone a satisfactory background check within six (6) months of the Provincial Synod.*** The Committee shall conduct a background check on all nominees. Any potentially disqualifying information, such as criminal charges or convictions, professional discipline, or a history of substance abuse or domestic violence, shall be disclosed first to a potential nominee, and then if the nominee agrees to proceed, to the four elected Provincial Officers. If deemed to be significant and relevant information by three of the four Officers, the disqualifying information shall be disclosed to the voting members of the Province.

Section 5. Information about the candidates presented to the Synod by the Committee shall be distributed to all bishops and deputies at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting of the Synod ***either by regular mail or electronically. This information shall be posted on the Province III website at least twenty (20) days prior to the Synod. Anyone desiring to be nominated from the floor shall also provide the same information to the Synod before any votes take place.***

Section 6. If there is not an election for any position on the first ballot by a majority of those present and voting, a second ballot shall be conducted. If there is not an election for any position on the second ballot by a majority, a third ballot shall be conducted. If a third ballot is necessary, the number of nominees shall be reduced to the two candidates receiving the most votes on the second ballot.

ORDINANCE XI

Of the Process of Amendment

These Ordinances may be amended at any session of the Synod by a concurrent vote of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies by a majority vote of those present, provided that such amendments, ***as proposed by the Provincial Council or any two Bishops or any three Deputies***, shall have been distributed no less than twenty (20) days prior to a meeting the Synod ***either by regular mail or electronically. Any proposed amendment to these Ordinances shall also be posted on the Province III website at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting of the Synod at which they are to be presented.*** In case of a conflict between these Ordinances and any Canon of The Episcopal Church as adopted by the General Convention, the Canon shall take precedence. In the case of such a conflict, these Ordinances shall be amended at the next meeting of the Synod to resolve any such conflict.