

## Proposed Resolution for the Province III Provincial Council

*Resolved*, That the Provincial Council of Province III, meeting virtually on November 8, 2021, and acting under the authority of Ordinance V, Section 2(b), hereby endorses the following resolution and calls upon the Secretary of Province III to forward this resolution to the Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Barlowe for distribution to the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Finance and the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance.

Submitted by the Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, Vice President of Province III, and Mr. Eddie Vance, Diocese of Easton

### Title: **Financial Support for FY 2023 & 2024 for Provinces I - VIII**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That The Episcopal Church strengthen its connection to and collaboration with the Provinces and Dioceses by:

- enhancing the mission, ministry and networking of the Provinces,
- nurturing the partnership between The Episcopal Church and its Provinces, and
- financially supporting the Provinces in fulfilling their canonical responsibilities;

and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Provincial ministry be partially funded through the establishment of a budget line item for Provinces I through VIII,\* said allocation to be \$10,000 per Province per fiscal year and to be accounted for in the canonically required annual report submitted by each Province to our Executive Council; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention urges the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to allocate \$80,000 for each of the two fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for the implementation of this resolution.

### **Explanation**

Provinces are canonically recognized in the structure of The Episcopal Church (See Title I; Canon 9; Section 1), and they submit an annual report to our Executive Council on their life and ministry. Canon I.9.2 states: “The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate interdiocesan collaboration to achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts.” Funding of this important ministry by our General Convention is needed and appropriate.

Provinces provide the opportunities to build coherence and connectedness between General Conventions. The Episcopal Church benefits organizationally, educationally and financially from this ministry; Dioceses benefit from the networking that is carried out at the Provincial level. Further, as TREC (Task Force on Reimagining the Episcopal Church) noted in 2015, some programs are best implemented at a regional level. Provinces currently have canonical responsibilities such as electing two representatives from each Province to the Executive Council, thereby insuring that voices from all geographical areas of our church are heard and included in the decision-making process. Provinces also provide important orientation for the Diocesan deputations to the General Conventions.

**\* Province IX already receives annual financial support in the current DFMS budget.** In the 2021 Executive Council approved TEC budget, lines 542-545 cover expenses related to Provincial Coordination. The **total** for Provinces I – VIII is \$15,000 for the three years or \$5000 per year (on average, \$625 per Province per year); this line item covers the translation expenses for the meetings of the Provincial Leadership Council and the Provincial Coordinators. Line 544 is dedicated to **Support for Province IX only**; the amount is \$50,000 for the three years or \$16,667 per year. This provides funding **only** to Province IX for its annual coordination expenses.

***Stronger Provincial ministries = stronger Provinces = a stronger TEC***