**Province III Synod 2019  
Monday, May 6 2019  
Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, West Virginia**

Everyone in attendance went around the room, by their seating arrangements and introduced themselves. Bishop William “Mike” Klusmeyer opened the meeting with prayer at 09:08 am. Bishop Klusmeyer then welcomed everyone.

Minutes from the 2018 Synod were sent out previously. Bishop Klusmeyer gave everyone some time to take another look at them. There was a motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes of the previous meeting have been approved as presented. Jean Reed had asked that the minutes be completed and issued within a possible 90 days so that the representatives would be able to report back to their dioceses and parishes. Bob hoped to have them completed within 30 days.

Bishop Klusmeyer introduced Rev. Nathaniel Pierce, Vice-President of the Province to introduce revisions to our Ordinances. Rev. Pierce explained the reasons for needing to update the Ordinances. The Ordinances are what the province uses that are really the same thing as the Canons in a diocese or at General Convention. He thanked Bishop Klusmeyer, Mr. Russ Randle, and Mr. Eddie Vance who worked with him. This is the most extensive revision to our Ordinances that we’ve ever attempted, but they are all necessary to address challenges or difficulties that we’ve had in the past.

They put together the Executive summary which is on the front page.

* Strength of the whole budget in process, how it happens, and how the apportionments of the dioceses are determined.
* We’ve added a whole section on staff. We had virtually nothing about staff in the old ones.
* We created, for the first time, the executive committee (works year-round), a provincial council (meets in the fall), and the Synod (meets in the spring).
* Minimum requirements of a letter of agreement
* Ordinance8 refers to background checks of members of Executive Council
* The old Ordinance 9 has to do with Provincial Courts of Review. (General Convention abolished courts of review in 2018).
* We had money set aside ($150,000.00) and people wondered why. A court of review will cost about $100,000.00.
* Established a nominating committee and its process.

It was moved that the revision to the Ordinances presented be approved. The motion passed. Rev. Pierce commented that next year at the provincial council, we will recommend the changes to Ordinance 8 and Ordinance 10, which will then come to Synod to be approved.

Bishop Klusmeyer commented that he didn’t want to give his report early, but wanted to express how happy he has been with the Executive Committee, which didn’t exist before, and now meets on a regular basis via phone conferences, and there is a lot of work being done by the committee.

We then moved to Ministry updates with questions and answers.

First reporting was Mr. Steven Jones, reporting on Environmental stewardship. This is an opportunity to strengthen rural communities and urban communities. He explained partnerships with growers that can extend what they do for the land, so they need institutional support. Unlike CSA’s which are seasonal, this is something that can happen all year long. This is a way the Episcopal Church can help with creation and care.

* Distribution is key. As of last year, there is an electronic database, and you can purchase directly from the growers. We can see what is being grown, and how much, etc. Also, the growers can see what the necessities are.
* Steven referred to a book titled “Food and Faith” which outlines how we can look at this liturgically.

Rev. Dina van Klaveren, chair of the Opioid Task Force presented information from the task force. Rev. van Klaveren began this endeavor three years ago.

* This is a very complicated web: social, economic, family, religious, shame involved, etc.
* Church is working to erase this stigma of addiction
* Congregations have an opportunity show community partners, law enforcement that we stand in solidarity with them.

Rev. van Klaveren’s co-chair is Mr. Carl Coulter retired DEA agent, a member of St. David’s, in Ashburn, Virginia. He’s training people from congregations in his diocese to be first responders for “next steps”, to help these people where needed.

Rev. van Klaveren showed a PowerPoint presentation on how this ministry came about, what types of things that we spend our time on, and how the province is helping to fund it, etc.

The task force was established at a meeting here in the Holiday Inn at Martinsburg, WV in May of 2017. To put the problem into perspective, Rev. van Klaveren pointed out that in 2017, there were more opioid deaths in that year alone, than there were at the height of the HIV epidemic of the 1990’s.

Rev. van Klaveren spoke of an Opioid Task Force pilgrimage in Huntington, WV. She showed slides from the pilgrimage, which was well attended, and it even had participants from Province IV.

Rev. van Klaveren spoke of Camp Spirit Song which will be held at the Claggett Center from August 11-16, 2019. The camp is designed specifically for these children whose parents might be incarcerated, or living with their grandparents, etc. The real cost is about $1,000.00 per camper. We would like to sponsor campers. We would like a diocese or parish to sponsor at least one camper. The money will need to go directly to Claggett Center. Bishop Klusmeyer pointed out that there is a basket in the rear of the room, by the doorway for donations. The link to information is below:

<https://www.province3.org/blog/support-camp-spirt-song>

**Province III Youth Ministry** – The report was given by Ms. Joanne Fisher.

In 2018 Province III sent just over 100 youth and adult leaders to the Provincial Youth Event at Ocean City Youth Rally (PYE @ OC) in early January.

In September the youth missioners from Maryland, Central Pennsylvania, Bethlehem, Western PA, and Easton met at the annual Diocesan Youth Workers of Awesome conference – this year in St. Louis. We gathered with others doing similar work from around the country to network and share ideas.  We also heard from speakers on a variety of topics including safeguarding and suicide prevention. The Province paid for a dinner on Tuesday night when we had our annual meeting to review budget and ideas for 2019.

In 2019 we are planning a long weekend youth pilgrimage to address racism throughout government and church history, racial reconciliation, and the most positive ways to move forward.  The title of the pilgrimage is Trail to Truth.  We decided that we will use a Washington DC to Philadelphia route this year, knowing that there is a plethora of options across Province III that we could use in future years. We have scheduled the event for Oct 11-14, 2019 and it will be open to high school students in grades 9-12.

As it is determined if dioceses don’t have youth that are interested in going, it can open seats to other dioceses that have more youth interested. The province has budgeted money to help make this pilgrimage happen. There will still be costs to the youth that are participating. The link with information is below:

<https://www.province3.org/blog/trail-to-truth-racial-reconcilliation-youth-pilgrimage>

**Ecumenical Affairs** – The Rev. Canon Maria Tjeltveit (Out-going PIII EDEIO Coordinator) was not present, but sent her report.

* This past year has been a transitional time for the Province III Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. This ministry area is made up of Ecumenical and Interreligious (or Interfaith) Officers (EIO) of each of the dioceses in Province III.
* While we did not have a face to face meeting of the whole group, we discussed priorities for the 2019 budget year
* The Dioceses of Virginia, Southern Virginia, and Southwestern Virginia have been working on a joint Episcopal-ELCA clergy workshop at Shrine Mont, Virginia, on June 24-26, *From Crib to Cross.* They are opening the workshop to the whole province, and we are helping to sponsor the conference with a $500 donation.
* We are working on developing a meeting of Episcopal and United Methodist leaders, as part of a Province-wide emphasis on the full communion proposal, to plan a significant event leading up to the United Methodist General Conference (2020) and General Convention (2021).
* Province 3 had an active presence at General Convention in the area of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, with The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton co-chairing the committee for this ministry area.
* After General Convention, Rev. Tjeltveit was appointed as co-chair of the Moravian-Episcopal Coordinator Committee.
* At the EDEIO meeting, The Very Rev. John P. Downey, EIO of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, was elected the new Province III Coordinator, as Tjeltveit’s term had expired.

Under John Downey’s leadership, we will work on the initiatives that are being funded through the Province III budget. We look forward to 2019 being a time of moving from transition to greater action, in our work with the United Methodists, the ELCA, and others. Bishop Klusmeyer also commented on the importance of Ecumenical Affairs.

**Anti-Racism** – Ms. Nancy Bolden was not present at the meeting to give the Anti-Racism report. Information was taken from her written report:

In June (2017) the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism produced the document "A Framework for Anti-Racism and Racial Reconciliation Training in the Episcopal Church."  Prior to General Convention (2018), dioceses and provinces were invited to submit a response/reaction prior to the document being revised and presented to General Convention. During Synod (2018), chairs/co-chairs and /or members of Race and Reconciliation Committees/Commissions from 7 of the 13 dioceses of the province met, discussed the document and prepared a response which was sent to the Chair of ECCAR. His response was that as they revised the document he was "working to incorporate your feedback into the Framework document before it is released, and the issues being raised."

Representatives from six of the 13 dioceses in Province 3 met in Martinsburg, WVA on November 11 and 12, 2018. The agenda for this meeting was to study the document, action taken at General Convention (resolutions adopted) and the implication for our work in the Province.

The group developed a preliminary plan for helping dioceses within the Province:

* Identify team of "seasoned and experienced trainers" who can "train" trainers to conduct workshops using the "Seeing the Face of God Curriculum."
* Develop a team of Trainers who would be available to assist Dioceses with their Anti-Racism Training
* Once guidelines have been set for the $2 million authorized by General Convention, consider submitting a proposal for an appropriate provincial project/program.

Each province has a representative on the Executive Council's Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation. Prior to the last General Convention, the Province 3 representative was The Rev Dr. Angela Shepherd, Diocese of Maryland. She accepted a call to a parish in the Diocese of Atlanta. This year Dr. Francis Dannenberg, Diocese of Pittsburgh, was appointed to fill that vacancy.

It is her expectation the next gathering of the diocesan Race and Reconciliation leadership of the province will also be a meeting where Dr Dannenberg will share information about the work of ECCAR and get feedback from the Dioceses.

**Health Ministry Report –** Ms**.** Sharon Logsdon, RN – Health Minister

* October 2018 – during the gathering at Martinsburg West Virginia health ministry set up a display table regarding current information available in the treatment of health issues for all ages, but mostly for the elderly in our congregations. I had many articles and informational flyers regarding the opioid epidemic of the Province.
* I ordered flashlight/pens and bags to be given out at events for the coming year therefore using more than my budgeted allotment for the coming year. Unfortunately, due to cuts in the budget I was unable to attend other Diocesan Conventions across the Province. I think it would be nice if each Diocesan Convention allotted the Province a table free of charge to set up a table with all information from the Province.
* May 4, 2019 I will be attending The Community Wellness Program by the NAACP of Allegany County of Maryland as a wellness ambassador.
* I will be attending Synod in May 2019 and have a table with giveaways, snacks and information. I will also be able to take blood pressures. Please stop and visit.
* I have purchased a table for the Maryland Diocesan Convention 2019 with the same information as above and I will be helping the Small Church at the same time.
* If possible, I would like all members of Synod to promote the general good health of all are Congregations.

**Province III United Thank Offering Report** - Rosamond Daniels, UTO Province III

* United Thank Offering (UTO) diocesan coordinators play a very important role in disseminating information such as announcements of webinars, e-newsletter, and UTO Coordinators Corner originating from the UTO National Board to churches and Parishes in their diocese. They also supported parishes in their Diocese by providing training and technical support in various aspects of the United Thank Offering, including gratitude, and ingatherings. While some dioceses are experiencing reduced Ingathering participation many are showing increased Ingathering collections and an increased interest in finding out about UTO
* Total UTO Ingathering collections for 2018 is $1,085,007.64. Remember 100% of all Ingathering collections are granted within the Episcopalian and Anglican communities nationally and internationally.
* Total Province III Ingathering Collections for 2018 is $196,670.27. This is $69,853.91 less than 2017. While the Ingathering amounts vary from year to year, the change was a bit higher this past year.
* UTO just posted a news release that for 2019 $1,535,740.50 is set to be awarded in June. This is an increase of $15,495.15 over 2017. Let us give God thanks for this increase and keep working to increase and share UTO blessings. Note granted funds include all the previous year’s Ingathering collections plus any returned previously granted funds and funds from trusts.
* To find out more about UTO, Ingatherings, grants, gratitude go to UnitedThankOffering.com. Also visit us on Facebook and other social media.

**Altar Guild for General Convention 2021** – Ms. Sharon Nachman was present to give her report. She attended the National Altar Guild Triennial Meeting held in Austin during General Convention. The National Altar Guild serves as Altar Guild for all worship services at General Convention. The next General Convention will be held in Baltimore, MD in 2021, and it takes between 25-30 altar guild people per service to have everything set-up for the service. In the past conventions, there between 9 and 10 services, and it is a lot of work for a great many people.

Province III is made up of thirteen Dioceses and approximately 1187 parishes. **Only two** of these dioceses have a diocesan Altar Guild Director, Virginia and West Virginia.

Our membership in NAGA is very small. She has contacted all Bishops in the province, but did not receive any responses.

* Ms. Nachman would like to have each diocese represented.
* Contact Ms. Nachman with a name of your diocesan representative so she can get in contact with them, as soon as possible. They can e-mail Sharon at <p3naga@gmail.com>.
* Altar Guild starts 2 or 3 days prior to the first day of Convention, and they stay at least a day after to clean-up and put everything away.

**Peace and Justice Ministry Report** – Rev. Linda Watkins

In my role as Peace and Justice Ministry Coordinator, I have focused mostly on working with the Opioid Crisis Response Task Force. I attended their fall meeting as well as a special gathering hosted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Both were extremely well done and informative. The sessions also allowed me to make a number of Peace/Justice contacts. I also attended the fall meeting of the Becoming the Beloved Community task force. This was most helpful in my role as part of the committee responsible for this work in my Diocese. In my Diocese, I have been working with our School for Ministry to put together a major Social Justice Learning weekend which I

Bishop Klusmeyer stopped to mention that we all appreciate everything Dr. Pam Cochran does for our province as our coordinator. He then invited Dr. Cochran to come up and present about the Title IV conference held in the past year. We have continued to have interest in continuing discussions and training in Title IV.

**Title IV**

* We have a two-day conference planned with three sessions.
* The first session will be held on May 17, 2019. This will be held with the first part being for Bishops, Chancellors and Church Attorneys, hosted by the Diocese of MD.
* In the afternoon, the sessions will be for Disciplinary Boards. Ms. Diane Sammons, the Chancellor for the Diocese of Newark will lead those sessions. She does annual training for Title IV for her Diocese. She is well equipped to lead these discussions.
* It will be held in the Diocesan Offices, in their Zoom room, and there will be people in attendance, as well as via the Zoom Conference. They are planning to record those sessions.
* The second day will be on May 31, 2019 and these sessions will be for In-take Officers. This session will be led by Maryland’s own Stuart Wright, who has been an In-take Officer for years.

Bishop Scanlan from Diocese of Central PA suggested everyone look at the Title IV website. She said it is excellent. There are videos, and tutorials on the roles for everyone that is somewhere in the Title IV process. Dr. Cochran said there is will be a link on our PIII website.

**Communications Platform** – Dr. Cochran spoke about our new website. It is more than just an electronic bulletin board, but it is very interactive. It is hosted by Membership Vision (MV). Our e-mailing will still come through MailChimp, but it is tied into our site. With our different ministries, they can update to our Facebook or Instagram page, it will automatically get updated on our Website. We can also do Podcasts. People will be encouraged to submit photos into a Dropbox account that Dr. Cochran has setup. It can be setup so people from the different dioceses can be administrators, and as they update their own web pages, it could be linked to automatically update to the Province III website at the same time. We did a “soft-launch” of our new website on April 1, for Synod registration. Just yesterday, we held a training session with the Executive Committee of Province III and ministry Coordinators, who will be using and providing much of the content for the site. Lisa Brown, from MV and the Council representative from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been available to consult individually with the ministry Coordinators. She has also been interviewing individuals at Province for a podcast that will post on the site. Lisa was available to answer people’s questions.

Mr. Randle led a discussion on the Presiding Bishop’s Evangelism Discussion. He did a survey of all the dioceses present, asking what other languages, other than English they conduct services in. He spoke of “hard language”, being the native language that people would pray in. He asked, of these different languages, how many are served by clergy that are native speakers.

Mr. Randle asked for suggestions about what changes can be made at the province level, or at the diocese level, to reach these people. Some dioceses have tried to start parishes with foreign languages being the primary language. There have not been many successes. Part of the problem is being able to sustain the parishes, financially. Different cultural expectations, even when in the same language (eg. Spanish, which has Colombian, Guatemalan, Mexican, Salvadoran, etc.). Some things that are celebrated in Mexico, could be celebrated differently, or not at all in Colombia, or Guatemala.

Which is better? Plant a new congregation by nationality or by language? It depends largely on the population of people from a certain nationality. At Executive Council, it was determined that there are about 18 different native language parishes, and that was from an unscientific poll taken among the members. With sign language, liturgical information is not readily available, and there is a large expense, not to mention that you need to have a clergy person that is fluent in ASL.

What changes do we need to make to our resources?

* We need quality leadership development within the parish.
* Dioceses need to be able to help fund the resources.
* Seminaries need to have curriculum for these other languages.
* One thing that is needed to build the cultural competency of white people. Until the white people understand where we are, they won’t be willing to spend the resources on cultures that they don’t understand.
* We need to be thinking how we can be ministering to the outcasts.

Mr. Randle took an informal survey of the dioceses and how many rural and urban parishes that they needed to close.

* How do we continue to minister to rural parishes that can’t sustain a traditional parish church?

This had been a very fruitful discussion, and we could go on for another hour, but it will be time for lunch. Rev. Downing and Mr. Randle will take some of this to Executive Council

Bishop Audrey Scanlan – Diocese of Central Pennsylvania administered the blessing before going to lunch break and taking of a group photo.

**Budget** – Report was given by Canon Judith Gregory, Treasurer for Province III.

Canon Gregory presented the 2018 budget, which is past, and does not need approval from this body today.  
She also mentioned that the Ordinances require we have an audit every year. We have not had an audit in the past 5 years. Canon Gregory contacted an CPA firm in Delaware to get a quote to do 2017 and 2018 “agreed upon procedures” which is a check to see that the finances were properly handled during that time. We don’t need a full out audit. We have a checking account, and no investments. We get some income, and we write out checks. The executive committee will get that quote and will be able to approve having the procedure completed.

At the Provincial Council Meeting held October 22, 2018, the Council members passed a budget

for 2019. Prior to the passing there were discussions pertaining to cash reserves, the calculation

of apportionments, compensation, and most importantly our shared ministries.

* **Cash Reserves** - Due to the Province holding a large reserve of cash heading into 2017, the decision was made at the April 25, 2016 Synod meeting that a reduction of the percentage allocated was reduced by 25%. This was then re-affirmed for the 2018 budget.
* Apportionments for 2019 - The Executive Council reviewed several proposals for the calculation of the apportionments for 2019. They included but were not limited to:
* Maintaining the reduced apportionment and severally discontinuing ministries.
* Reverting to the prior formula of .0025 of the pledges received into the diocese reported

on the diocesan report two years prior.

* Revising the formula to align with that of the diocesan pledge to The Episcopal Church.
* Using either formula but increasing the percentage.

**The formula adopted and proposed to Synod is as follows:**

* Align the formula with that of the diocesan pledge to The Episcopal Church.
* Since the budget is adopted in October of a given year, utilize the diocesan report

available from two years prior to the budget year. The budget for 2019 would use the

diocesan report from 2017, 2020 uses 2018 and continuing.

* Begin with the total adjusted operating income on Page 4 of the diocesan report, deduct

$140,000 and then calculate.

* For 2019 the percentage is .30 or .0003. For 2020, the rate rises to .0035.

Obligations for 2019:

* Includes the cost for the new Communications Platform, moving from ACS. Province III

Website

* Includes both revenue and expenses for the annual Synod meeting
* Includes additional Title IV Training Opportunities
* The Christian Formation budget includes funding for scholarships for up to 10
* individuals to attend the Forma Conference January 23-15, 2019
* The Youth budget includes a new Youth Civil Rights Pilgrimage in 2019. Youth Pilgrimage
* The Anti-racism/Inclusion budget provides funding for a Provincial event, training and working with dioceses looking to start a program. Check out their Facebook page
* Episcopal Health Ministries
* Peace and Justice
* Opioid Task Force. Report on the Pilgrimage held March 25-26 Announcement of Pilgrimage
* New work with Ecumenical Relations/Affairs
* 2019 is a non-General Convention year
* Full-year compensation for the Province III Coordinator, that includes a 2.7 COLA and pension as mandated by General Convention.

Insert links to 2019 draft budget that was adopted at council (should reside somewhere on our website), the apportionment chart, and the YTD 2019 P&L

*The 2020 budget does not need to be approved by Synod, but the recommendation from the Provincial Council to raise the apportionment rate for 2020 to .0035% needs to be approved. There were no questions and the recommendation from council was approved unanimously.*

**Below, using the apportionment**

**Apportionments for 2020:**

Based upon the approved 2019 budget, we begin with a support dollar amount of $100,774. If we end 2019 with the projected deficit of only $35,961 then we would have $21,572 heading into 2020. This is predicated on all thirteen dioceses paying their full 2019 Apportionment.

**Contract obligations for 2020 - $62,845**:

* Includes the annual maintenance contract for the website.
* Includes compensation for the Province III Coordinator.
* Includes payroll tax and processing fees. The payroll processing fees were cut by 50%

with a re-negotiated contract with Paychex.

**Annual Meeting or Training obligations - $9,000**:

* Includes net annual Synod meeting costs
* Includes cost of fall Provincial Council meeting
* Includes cost for attending annual Provincial Council meeting
* Includes new cost for the Provincial Leadership Conference
* Includes, but not always utilized, travel costs for the President, Vice-President, Treasurer,
* Secretary and the Coordinator.
* Does not include costs for this non-General Convention year.

**Funds available for Mission and Ministries - $28,929**

**Balanced Draft 2020 Planning Budget**

Canon Gregory then asked, if there is anything we would like to see reported up on our communications platform. She said people can contact her to ask her anything they need in the way of details, or any questions pertaining to our finances.

Bishop Klusmeyer gave the President’s Report – (The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer)

As you may recall, a few years ago, we were a Province that was looking for a purpose. Throughout The Episcopal Church, people were asking what the role of the Provinces should be. TREC raised serious questions but proposed no definitive solutions.

With that background, we gathered a couple of years ago, and found that we had a sizeable cash reserve, due to unspent ministry programs. At that time, the leadership of the Province was guided to use the unspent money, and to re-energize the Province.

I believe we have done that!

With the presence of Dr. Cochran as our Provincial Coordinator, we are continuing to move the Province forward. Dr. Cochran has great ideas and hopes for the life of Province III. Her love of the Church, and the ministries which help build the Body of Christ, is infectious, and I am grateful that we have her here! She will never know how much we appreciate her. I appreciate you. Thank you for all you have done, and for all that you continue to do!

I also want to say that it is a great privilege and pleasure to work with Mr. Russ Randall, Canon Judith Gregory, Rev. Pierce Pierce, Mr. Eddie Vance and Mr. Bob Kilp and The Rev. Patty Downing, as we meet regularly to discuss where we have been, and where we believe God is calling us ahead. These are seriously committed people, who love God and love The Church! I thank you all.

We are working very hard to work within the Province to bring the Good News to those who long to hear it.

This past year, we held a Title IV training session, with all dioceses represented (I believe). It was a tremendous program, and everyone present learned much more about the Title IV process. We all benefited from it.

The Opioid Task Force led by the Rev. Dina van Klaveren has continued to be active. Last month, approximately 30 people traveled to Huntington, West Virginia to meet with the Mayor and other civic leaders to see what they have been doing. Huntington had one of the highest overdose death rates in the US and is now leading the country in their response. People came there expecting to see this dark, dreary place. What they found there was that it is a very vibrant place. The Task Force is also leading the Episcopal Church in our full response to this crisis. The Rev. van Klaveren (and others) has been tapped to lead the Episcopal Church’s Task Force on the Opioid Crisis.

The Bishops of Province III all got together and held a retreat. We have a date set again for next year. This hasn’t been done for years.

We are working on a pilgrimage for the youth/young adults to trace the roads of enslavement in our Province. From Washington, DC to Philadelphia, we are encouraging the younger generation to join us, as we learn from the past, and reshape our future.

In the last couple of years, we have become more transparent in our activities in the Province, and we have also become more active and engaging. This is due to the hard, and good work of Dr. Cochran, and the other leaders. I am most grateful for their leadership!

Over the years, as we have struggled with Provincial identity, many have responded by saying that provinces exist to do the things that Dioceses can’t (or shouldn’t) do alone. I believe that to be true, and we have taken ahold of that.

Bishop Klusmeyer thinks we could get together as a Province and talk about the problems with so many small parishes that are closing, and work on it to help each other to figure out what to do to save these parishes.

Cluster ministries that we can get together and talk about moving into the 21st century. This is not the same Episcopal Church that we all grew up in. The Church is changing.

In closing, I want to say to you that:

I believe in God the Father. I believe in God the Son. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Holy Catholic Church. I believe in the Episcopal Church. I believe in the Provinces of The Episcopal Church. I believe in the life, work and ministry of Province III. And I believe in our dioceses, parishes, missions, clergy and people within our Province. Together we can continue to more than we ever imagined.

I thank you, and God bless you.

**Rev. Nathanial Pierce gave the Vice-President’s report -**

Rev. Pierce said that in the spirit of our new website, he was going to tell us a story. In 1870, an Episcopal priest named William Reed Huddington wrote an essay about what he considered to be the four major principals that defined the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. In 1886, that came before the General Convention, and was adopted by the House of Bishops, but not the House of Deputies, who thought that it was too radical. And then it went on to Lambeth in 1888 and became known as the Chicago Lambeth, an historic document in the Christian world. And in many ways marked the Ecumenical movement. The Episcopal Church was considered a leader in the Ecumenical movement. Fast forward to 2015 when TREC issued its report where they began to reimagine and reorganize The Episcopal Church, and one of their proposals was to get rid of 13 of the 15 standing committees, including the Standing Committee of Ecumenical Relations and Interreligious Affairs. Meanwhile, in 2015, the World Council of Churches issued a major ecumenical statement and asked the opinions of the member churches. They looked for the response from one of the historic leaders in the Ecumenical Movement, The Episcopal Church had to say about it. This invitation from Geneva, Switzerland arrived at 815 Second Ave. And what did we do with it? We had done away with the Standing Committee of Ecumenical Relations and Interreligious Affairs. So, they forwarded it to a subcommittee of Executive Council – World Mission. That is where Rev. Pierce was. They had 8 people on the subcommittee, 2 which did not speak English. So Rev. Pierce ended up writing 4 resolutions. He went to his Bishop, and said we need a representative for this. Bishop Marray said, “You are right. You are it”. Then Rev. Pierce came to PIII and said we need a Coordinator. They said find one. So he set out to find one, and low and behold he found Maria Tjeltveit. She was already the Coordinator and agreed to be the same for PIII. Her term has now expired, and John Downey from Erie, PA has agreed to replace her. This tells you about Provinces. We are now working on Bishops and Clergy of the Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church who will have a major conference in 2021 to approve the two churches to be in full communion in 2021. That’s going to have a tremendous impact. There are at least 2 Methodist Churches within 5 miles of every Episcopal Church. They are now planning a meeting among both churches to talk about 2021. In 2015 there was a movement to eliminate provinces. ***Provinces are called by God to do what The Episcopal Church won’t do, and what Dioceses can’t do.*** Provinces always must look at the middle. Province III now needs to get going. We need to always ask ourselves what’s in the gap between 815 and boots on the ground? Our province needs always to be discerning what is missing and doing something about it. Our province is always identifying the gaps, and filling them in. We have totally reorganized the province over the last four years. A change we instituted that the other provinces haven’t. When we adopted the provisions today, we elect 2 members of the Synod to Executive Council. Rev. Downing is the Clerical member to Executive Council. We make those two members of this Synod as voting members of Executive Council, which is sort of like the Vestry of the Episcopal Church. In other words, we have integrated them into The Church through the province. They will always be around to remind us what the gap is between 815 and our work in our local dioceses. It’s going to be a great year! It’s a great privilege to be your Vice-President.

**Executive Council** – Rev. Downing reported back on what work they have been doing in Executive Council. They met in Oklahoma City, and worked to help identify some of the gaps. They were put into four groups: finance, mission within, mission without, and governance. Rev. Downing served on the group working on finance. Mr. Randel who had to leave this meeting early, works on mission outside the church. They heard reports back from our treasurer of the Episcopal Church. They learned that the end of 2018 was not a good time to be in the stock market, but the January of 2019 was. We were fortunate to recoup our 2018 losses in January of 2019. We’ve restructured the budget we have a 15% ask of Dioceses. Some dioceses have asked for waivers from the 15%. Some were approved and some were not approved. Dioceses have until the end of this year to get their waiver applications in. We talked about Episcopal migration ministry. National migration policies have effect on what the Episcopal Church can do. In addition to the work that finance has been doing, there is also work around church planting, grant applications for dioceses, and dioceses that are not giving their 15%, there is work around what the applications should look like. How do we communicate back to local congregations whose dioceses are not giving their 15%? They also spent time talking with those working with ministry within to beef up allocations for staff support. They also spent time talking about the work being done in racial reconciliation work. What can be done regionally and nationally? They talked about youth work, camp and conference centers and how raise up and support them. They talked about ministries within and talked about how they can support them with staff from 815. Under Governance and Operations, they are talking about IT and Communications, how is 815 best utilizing, and how do we allow that to be a platform for us. They spent a lot of time at the very end of the meeting. Before they got there, the invitations went out for Lambeth to Bishops and spouses, and some of the Bishop’s spouses were not invited. So, they spent a lot of time wrestling over resolution to take care of that.

**Diocese of MD hosting General Convention 2021** – Rev. Canon Scott Slater spoke of plans for the 2021 GC in Baltimore, MD. Bishop Klusmeyer told us that after the last General Convention, he penned a letter to the Presiding Bishop and the Rev. Michael Barlow in regard to moving from his hotel to the convention hotel, the obvious large population of homeless people in Austin, and would it be possible to for the Church do something that is systemic, vs. individuals doing something. He wondered if the host is planning to try and do anything for the homeless of Baltimore?

There is a joint standing committee for planning. The first meeting was held last winter. They went over feedback and comments from the last convention. The first day is Wednesday, June 30th. Friday, July 9th is day 10. The 4th of July is a Sunday. The federal holiday is Monday, July 5th. They are hoping to plan a Maryland Night. Possibly a revival. They are looking for ideas to have a variety of choices for Maryland Night. Hopefully there will be something that can be free. Also, looking into the Orioles schedule. Possibly setting up a dinner cruise. They need help. There will be two primary roles. 1) Hosting Maryland Night, and 2) Volunteers. We need enough volunteers to do all that is needed. There will be paid staff to train volunteers, then some volunteers will need to train other volunteers. There will be a Diocesan Committee for volunteers. Possibly each diocese can host a volunteer day. The bulk of the volunteers would come from that diocese. There are approximately 1,000 volunteers needed for the convention. That equals approximately 100 volunteers/day. They are hoping to develop a General Convention app that can hopefully connect to the main General Convention app.

Eddie Vance asked if there was a way to do mission. There could be some engagement with the city. Possibly something to do with violence, racism and gun violence. Possibly a walk and rally to St. James (Lafayette Square). More information will be forthcoming.

**Resolutions and Memorials** - Bishop Klusmeyer presented the resolutions. Ordinances state that resolutions need to be submitted a certain amount of time in advance. He would like to have each one considered, one at a time. There was a motion to consider the resolution, and it was seconded. The motion carried. The resolution was allowed for discussion.

**Province III Resolution**

**Baltimore General Convention and Province-wide Efforts to**

**Support the Diocese of Maryland in Hosting That Convention**

Whereas, the Diocese of Maryland has been selected to host the 80th General Convention of The

Episcopal Church from Wednesday, June 30, 2021 until July 9, 2021 in Baltimore, Maryland;

Now therefore, be it Resolved, by the 2019 Synod of Province III of TEC, meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on May 6, 2019, that we

1. Heartily congratulate the Diocese of Maryland for the honor of hosting the General Convention

in Baltimore and strongly commend the fine efforts made so far Maryland’s bishops, clergy and

people to prepare for a successful, harmonious, spirited, and fruitful General Convention for The

Episcopal Church (TEC) to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

2. Recognize that it is vital for TEC to bring many younger clergy and lay leaders, particularly

leaders of ethnic communities underrepresented in TEC, more fully into the life of the wider

Church, and that the Baltimore Convention represents a critical opportunity for us to do so for

the people in our Dioceses;

3. Recognize further that most of our Dioceses will not have the opportunity to host General

Convention over the next several decades, given the daunting logistical requirements of such a

Convention, making this Convention a key event for all Dioceses within our Province;

4. Request that by July 1, 2019, the Bishops of our other twelve dioceses each designate,

a person on their diocesan staff to help recruit, train, assist and coordinate volunteers to

help with General Convention, especially volunteers from among younger clergy and lay people,

and ethnic communities, underrepresented in TEC;

5. Request that by July 1, 2019, the Bishop of Maryland to designate a Coordinator on his staff to

work with Coordinators in other dioceses;

6. Urge that the designated Coordinators, working under the leadership of the Maryland

Coordinator, identify the specific needs for Convention volunteers, undertake collective efforts

to recruit them, train them, and orient them about the wider church and the need for vital

leadership from many new people;

7. Request each Diocesan Convention (or Diocesan Council) to consider and enact appropriate

resolutions and to allocate financial resources to promote and assist in the widespread

recruitment of many able volunteers and appropriate additional resources to help the Diocese

of Maryland host an outstanding General Convention;

8. Request that the Provincial Deputies and Provincial Council representatives from each Diocese

report in writing 30 days before each of the 2020 and 2021 Provincial Synods and the 2019 and

2020 Provincial Councils on the progress made to implement this resolution, with information

on the efforts made in their diocese, particularly the identity of designated Diocesan

Coordinators, the text of Diocesan resolutions passed, the steps taken to recruit, train and assist

volunteers for this Convention, particularly efforts to recruit younger clergy and lay leaders, and

people from ethnic communities underrepresented in TEC.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell V. Randle

Some edits needed to be made to clarify it. Willing to allow the edits to be made after the fact. There was a motion and a second to approve the resolution as amended. The motion carried.

**Submitted to the Province III Synod – May 6, 2019**

**Late Resolution; requires a 2/3 vote to accept for debate.** There was a motion to consider waiving the timeline of when the resolution was submitted. It was seconded, and the motion carried.

**Resolution to Assure Compliance with Fiduciary Standards by Nominees for Executive Council from Province III**

*Resolved*, That the 2019 Provincial Synod meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on May 6, 2019, directs that the following procedure shall govern future nominations for the Province III representative to the Executive Council of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church (DFMS):

1. Nominations shall be submitted to the Province III Nominating Committee at least 90 (ninety) days prior to the first day of the Province III Synod meeting in the year in which General Convention meets.
2. As a condition for nomination, potential nominees shall, in order to be considered for nomination, provide advance written consent for the Province III Nominating Committee and the Chief Legal Officer of The Episcopal Church to conduct an appropriate background check regarding the following issues:
   1. criminal charges and past criminal record (not including non-violent juvenile offenses),
   2. professional disciplinary infractions or pending proceedings involving alleged violations of applicable ethical codes (including canonical discipline),
   3. citations, charges or convictions for DUI/DWI (including any pretrial diversion),
   4. protective or restraining orders alleging threats of harm to any other person,
   5. orders, including consent orders, barring the proposed nominee from practice before any federal or state agency,
   6. orders (including consent orders) involving alleged or adjudicated violations of state or federal securities laws,
   7. civil claims alleging fraud or dishonesty,
   8. registration in any jurisdiction as a sex offender, and
   9. any pending unresolved indictment, criminal charge (other than minor traffic offenses), civil enforcement action for securities law violations, or civil claim/ disciplinary complaint alleging professional misconduct or violations of the ethical standards of the nominee’s license profession or occupation.
3. Potential nominees shall disclose in writing, as part of any proposed nomination, the particulars of the items enumerated in Section (2) above to the Province III Nominating Committee for transmission to the President and Vice-President of Province III and to the Chief Legal Officer of TEC in connection with the background check.
4. The findings of any background check shall be shared in writing with the proposed nominee at least 30 days in advance of the Provincial Synod meeting in order to provide the prospective nominee the opportunity to respond in writing to any derogatory or inaccurate information found in the background check.
5. In the event the Nominating Committee presents a nominee who has disclosed past conduct or current charges involving any of the items enumerated in Section (2), the specifics of that past conduct as well as the background check results shall be disclosed in writing to Provincial Synod at least two weeks before the Provincial Synod meeting so those voting may evaluate the information.
6. A potential nominee may certify in writing that there is nothing to disclose in response to the enumerated items listed in Section (2). Such nominees shall still be subject to a background check by the Chief Legal Officer of The Episcopal Church and the Province III Nominating Committee. A certification later found to be false shall be grounds to disqualify the nominee from election or to remove said person from the Executive Council if such misconduct comes to light after an election.

and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution shall be given by the President of the Province to each member of the Province III 2021 Nominating Committee and distributed as a matter of information to the Bishops and Deputies of Province III at the 2020 meeting of our Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Russell Randle  
Rev. Pierce W. Pierce

**Explanation**

The purpose of this resolution is to assure that those nominated to serve on the Executive Council from Province III meet fiduciary standards as a member of the Board of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and as an elected representative of the governing body of The Episcopal Church between General Conventions. Past failures by TEC and other Christian denominations to perform adequate screening for sensitive positions have resulted in serious harm to individuals and to the mission of spreading the Gospel.

*It was moved that this resolution be deferred back to council for clarification. The motion carried. This resolution is deferred back to council and will be discussed at the provincial council meeting in the fall.*

The date for the next Provincial Council meeting is Monday, October 28, 2019.

Bishop Brown led us in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.