**Province III Synod 2021**

May 3, 2021 – 9:30 am to 12:24 pm (via Zoom)

Present:

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| **Name (Original Name)** |
| Pam Cochran--P3 (Pamela Cochran) |
| Anne Bardol NWPA (Anne Bardol) |
| Russell Bishop - DioSoVA (Russell Bishop) |
| Nathaniel Pierce (Nathaniel Pierce) |
| Bob Prichard (C4 (Robert Prichard) |
| Kaycee Reib-NWPA-DepGC (Kaycee Reib) |
| Steve Stagnitta - Pittsburgh (Steve Stagnitta) |
| Russ Randle (Russ Randle) |
| Ellyn(Lyn) Crawford-Dio VA (Ellyn Crawford) |
| Susan Bentley-SWVA (Susan Bentley) |
| Jane Morgan -Easton (Jane Morgan) |
| Jan Brown |
| Christopher Hart - PA (Christopher Hart) |
| Helen Sharpe D-GC (Helen Sharpe-Williams) |
| Billy Kingery |
| San Marray: Easton (Santosh Marray) |
| Susan Fritz- EDOW (Susan Fritz) |
| JACK Barrow  DSWVA (JACK Barrow) |
| Judith Gregory Treas. (Judith Gregory) |
| Matt Ciszek NWPA (Matthew Ciszek) |
| VERONICA CHAPPELL Central PA (VERONICA CHAPPELL) |
| Isaac Quelly - DioPA (Lay) (Isaac Quelly) |
| Glenna Huber (she/her) EDOW (Glenna Huber) |
| Bishop Klusmeyer - WV - Province III Pres (Bishop Klusmeyer) |
| John `Michael Sophos (John `Michael Sophos) |
| Scott Slater/DioMd 1st alternate (Scott Slater) |
| Michael Wood \_ Delaware (Michael Wood) |
| Linda Watkins (Linda Watkins) |
| Cynthia Bartol-Virginia (Cynthia Bartol) |
| Warren Wong (Warren Wong) |
| Patrick Collins - Diocese of Easton - Deputy (Patrick Collins) |
| Benjamin Badgett (Benjamin Badgett) |
| Robert Ihloff |
| The Rev. T. Allen---Bethlehem (The Rev. T. Allen) |
| Jon Delano |
| Randy Callender (Diocese of MD) (Randy Callender) |
| Chilton Knudsen |
| Maria Tjeltveit (Maria Tjeltveit) |
| John Downey |
| Greg Syler - Diocese of Washington (Greg Syler) |
| Bob Kilp PIII Secretary (CPA) (Robert Kilp) |
| Audrey Scanlan |
| Rev'd Jane Gober (Jane Gober) |
| Jan Brown |
| Phil Steptoe WV (Phil Steptoe) |
| Joshua Saxe |
| Lisa Brown |
| Grant Stokes |
| James Kamihachi |
| Chris McCloud - MD (The Rev. Canon Chris McCloud) |
| Adrien Dawson (Adrien Dawson) |
| Kevin Nichols |
| Pamela Nesbit |
| David Wacaster - EDOW (David Wacaster) |
| Linda Calkins |
| Charlotte Meyer |
| Faye S. Felton |
| Katharine Maddox |
| Mark Delcuze (Easton) He/Him (Mark Delcuze) |
| Jon Greene--SWVA (Jon Greene) |
| Sandra Bjork |
| Diane-Louise Casson (Diane-Louise Casson) |
| Nina Salmon - SWVA (Nina Salmon) |
| Gerry Perez- EDOW (Gerry Perez) |
| Rev Les Ferguson (Leslie Ferguson) |
| Ruth Elder (she/her) Dio MD (Ruth Elder) |
| Jason Crighton • LA4 Washington (2023) he/him (Jason Crighton) |
| Mary DeKuyper Dio. MD (Mary DeKuyper) |
| Audrey Scanlan Bp. Central PA (Audrey Scanlan) |
| Toni Hogg |
| Kevin Brown Delaware (Kevin Brown) |
| Carrie A. Brown EDOM Deputy |
| Katharine Maddox |
| Karl Colder |
| Michael Braxton-Pittsburgh (Michael Braxton) |
| Kevin Cross - Easton (Kevin Cross) |
| Alan Cowart |
| Katharine Maddox |
| Alice R Webley |
| Carrie A. Brown EDOM Deputy |
| Patricia Downing |
| Jon Delano |
| Helen Sharpe-Williams |
| Geoffrey Wild |
| Charlotte Meyer |
| Charlotte Meyer |
| Charlotte Meyer |
| Charlotte Meyer |
| Charlotte Meyer |
| Katharine Maddox |
| Jason Crighton |
| Michael Braxton |
| Jane Morgan -Easton |
| Alice R Webley |

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer (WV) confirmed that we have a quorum.

Bishop Mike led us in prayer to open the meeting. He thanked the executive committee, especially our coordinator, Pam Cochran, for leading us. He then lead a discussion based on three questions:

* What would you keep from what you have had to adapt to during the past year?
* What would you jettison?
* What have we learned? What have we learned about being a church in the 21st Century?

John Delano (PGH): Keep, the greater involvement by lay persons in their diocese, doing many interactive opportunities that we could never do with clergy alone. Jettison the inability to get together.

Linda Watkins (CPA) Peace and Justice coordinator: We have been able to reach out in directions we have never been able to. Shut-ins love it. Keep Zoom in the mix, but we long to be back together and have meals together. Hope to get a little less busy, but more prayerful.

Michael Wood (DE): Learned that the church can be agile, responding to changing circumstances. Zoom has been helpful because of more participation and should be kept. Jettison being afraid of the world and what is happening outside of our homes and get back together.

Bob Prichard (VA): Appreciate the economy of Zoom, saving expenses. Looking forward to getting back to actual full hearty sense of communion. Participation of the laity is vital to what is going on.

Steve Stagnitta (PGH): Appreciate men’s Bible study with Bishop. Zoom lets us meet weekly. More people now involved. Meetings have gotten more efficient. Less travel. Parish level, online service every Sunday. Now can meet in-person with limitations to number of people.

Lisa Brown (PGH): Forces us to look at what is membership. Boundaries of community are defined. More people can join other people even though they are not physically in the area. People joining a church when they haven’t even had to chance to set foot in the building.

Adrien Dawson (MD): Echoes a lot of what others have said. There are a lot of historic practices in the church that we do and nobody knows why we do them. We’ve stopped, now we should jettison them. Usually, 250 each week at worship in the church, but now “all my sheep are out to pasture. They are all free range”. No idea the shape of her parish. Don’t prop up things that we haven’t had this past year and waste our energy bringing things back that are not necessary. Homebound parishioners like the online. Saying “I finally got my church back, now you are all in my boat”. How do we become one body, whether we are in-person, or online? This is a time of tremendous creativity. More outreach now. Don’t want to reanimate things that have gracefully died.

James Kamihachi (Easton): We’re called to bring the Kingdom of God on Earth now, and can’t do that unless we are engaged. We have to change to make ourselves attractive to more people.

Canon Judi Gregory (DE): Easter service could be together with people from family that were not near here, but could worship together. I miss hugs and singing.

John Michael Sophos (DE): Great job of holding everything together. Even though Delaware is small, there are some obstacles between areas. He has been able to participate via Zoom in activities that he never would have begun to imagine being able to participate. St. Peter’s, Lewes, DE, have learned an incredible amount about themselves. Made sure that they stayed in touch with each other and how healthy the parish is. The spirt is alive at St. Peter’s. Will never abandon Facebook and YouTube ministry.

Jane Morgan (Easton): Delighted of having a level of consent about touch. Doesn’t miss hugging. Conversation about it is important to maintain going forward. Concerned about tremendous variance how dioceses are practicing. OK with leaving parts of it behind. Format of children and youth, we have a chance to reimagine how we can match schedules and availability.

Toni Hall (SoVA): Enjoyed creativity of different groups. Chaired a women’s spirituality group. Were able to have speakers that we never could have been able to have.

Pam Cochran (MD): Ability we’ve been able to reach out to, other than shut-ins are parents with younger children found that gathering online is much easier than having to get childcare. We have groups that can join without the hassles of childcare. Others are businesspeople that can participate on a daily prayer service or Bible study and these sorts of programs. There will be overlap with these groups.

Bishop Mike is interested to find out if any of the bishops have any learnings over the year.

Bishop Robert Ilhoff (MD): Maryland is encouraging all parishes to continue electronic services even when we get back to in-person worship. Other committees and programs will need to be a combination of in-person and online. There are nuances that are missed on Zoom, and we will need to continue to get in-person again. Philosophical theological vent that he is very interested in: Physics in time and space are entirely human elements. There is no time and space in God. Intrigued by what constitutes the space between the celebrant and the recipient in receiving communion. Eucharist where someone at home has bread and wine in front of their screen, and celebrant consider that the Eucharist be transformed. Why limit the sense of God’s action to the priest within a building and an alter that can’t be also appreciated by true believers with the intentionality at quite a distance. This isn’t something that would be settled in the near future, but it is a conversation that should take place. The pandemic has opened this kind of scientific question that we may be able to include eucharist in much more imaginative ways.

Bishop Audrey Scanlan (PA): Real opportunity to examine the foundations of our sacramental theology and wrestle as Bishops with what we authorize and how we authorize it, not just around the issues of sacraments. But, who has the right to say whether a church can be opened or closed? Who has that authority? Really dig down into that about communion to say what is it exactly about communion that you are missing? Is it about community, being in the same pew with others, the hugging Judi talked about, is it raising our voices in praise, or is it really about having that encounter with the incarnate Christ through the sacrament of Holy Communion? This have been a wonderful opportunity to have a dialogue about this.

Kevin Cross (Easton): Broadcasting is here to stay. The whole polarization of the country. People have grown tired of the divide. Longing to reconnect with each other.

Linda Watkins (CPA): Noticing a lot more energy about social justice. People want to get involved. This is a golden moment that we’ve got to grab.

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer (WV) – When he was 21 at Seminary, his class was asked “what will the Episcopal church look like in 5, 10, 20 years from now. He was working on a computer at the time, and ATM’s were fairly new. He went to the computer and wrote a program that looked like an ATM machine. Press 1 for morning prayer, press 2 for evening prayer, press 3 for Holy Eucharist (press 1, 2, or 3 for Rite 1, Rite 2 or Rite 3. It would even accept your credit card for online giving. The bread and wine would come out of the machine, and even if you wanted incense, it would waft out of the machine. He gave it to Dr. Carpenter at the time, thinking he might get drummed out of seminary. Dr. Carpenter laughed and Bishop Mike knew he was OK at this point. He thought he was on the cutting edge of the church, and he had 40 years to go. As he looks back now, there were a lot of missed opportunities. The last parish he was at, he did a wedding and the groom was from England. The family was not able to come here to the wedding so he ran a long phone cord and put the phone on the altar so the family could hear the wedding. In 1993, that was kind of high-tech. But. In retrospect, he is kicking himself that he didn’t do that for all the shut-ins. Zoom is an opportunity, as other have said that the church can take the walls down and let others come in. Friends are checking in from all over the globe. This is here to stay, and whatever it is, God is calling us to be the church yet to be. General Seminary has a non-denominational church using the chapel for services, and the pastor said “if you have bread and wine, set it in front of your screen and we’ll take care of it.”

Bishop Mike also related a story from after Katrina, in which the Bishop of Mississippi commented that churches that had been destroyed set up services in pavilions and makeshift churches. Because there were no walls, people came and went freely. When the weather began to get colder, they would put up tarps to keep it warmer inside, but fewer people came and went. We need to figure out how to keep from “putting up walls” for our future, and how do we keep people from coming in, and us from being sent out?

Pam held up a book titled “We Shall Be Changed” questions for the post-pandemic church which is being discussed in the diocese of Maryland in book discussion groups, and other dioceses may soon be discussing it, as well.

Karl Colder gave a report on the Opioid Task Force, led by Dina Van Klaveren and himself. There has been an uptick in overdoses, caused mostly by the pandemic due to isolation with individuals such as shut-ins, etc. They have an eight-session course online with Deacon Jan Brown, gearing us toward “train the trainer”. We are not yet out of the water on this, we need to keep moving on this. Next will be alcoholism. We need to keep our foot on the pedal and keep this program going. Province III should be proud. This program started here, but now it is nationwide. Karl is energized. Let’s not give up but keep this going.

David Wacaster (EDOW) gave a report, along with Canon Chris McCloud (MD), on the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Ministry. The George Floyd murder energized racial justice in the country. The work is not finished. There is still a lot of work to do.

The Racial Justice group highlighted the book discussion on Dr. Kendi’s *How to Be an Antiracist*. The province provided $15,000 for Dr. Kendi’s speaking fee. There were 14 sessions to discuss his book, with a final session with Dr. Kendi himself. Nine of our dioceses participated, led by facilitators from 3 dioceses of our province.

We will be convening racial justice coordinators across the province. In the future, there will be provincial level of anti-racism training and we will have Sacred Ground resources for facilitators. In 2022 we would like to hold a train the trainer event. We are grateful to the leadership of the province. It is a statement of faith and statement of the importance of this work.

Canon McCloud added her thanks to the provincial leadership for having the faith to let us run the book discussion with Dr. Kendi. She encouraged everyone to look at the results of the racial audit conducted by The Episcopal Church. They will see there are still a lot of roads for us to travel toward racial reconciliation. We will continue to share our resources.

The Rev. Canon Scott Slater (MD) gave an update on General Convention. Scott showed the rescheduled General Convention for July of 2022. There will be one less day because of the rescheduling other conventions for the convention center. We will actually end on Thursday, instead of Friday. One change was that the revival will be on Day 3 from 5-7 pm. This will allow people from different dioceses to attend on a weekend. On Day 5, Monday the 11th, will be Diocese of Maryland Night from 6-9 pm. The full schedule for GC can be found at: GC 2022 schedule: [https:/extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/29883](https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/29883).

We still need volunteers to help. There will be a need for some supervisors which means you would need to commit to the entire convention, or half of the convention because supervisors could split the duties and each take half of the convention. To volunteer, contact Caroline Bomgardner at cbomgardner@EpiscopalMaryland.org. You all committed to one liaison from each diocese to volunteer. So far, only two dioceses have provided their names of volunteers.

Scott also gave one last plug for the College of Congregational Development. Registration closes this week or next week at the latest. To register, go to: <https://episcopalmaryland.org/ccdmd/>

The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce presented the resolutions: He thanked the following people for serving on the resolutions committee:

* The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose – Virginia
* Christopher Hart – Pennsylvania
* Russ Randle – Virginia and our Executive Council Rep. from Province III
* Bishop Audrey Scanlan – Central Pennsylvania
* Eddie Vance – Easton
* Alice Webley – Southern Virginia

(See the resolutions on the Province III website.)

Harriet Tubman resolution – Opened for discussion. There were no questions or discussion. Voting was done via voice acclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Fr. Paul Wattson resolution – Opened for discussion. There were no questions or discussion. Voting was done via voice acclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Nathaniel invites all dioceses to submit their resolutions to the province prior to the General Convention.

Resolutions to be presented to 2022 General Convention by Randy Callender from the diocese of Maryland, who is a member of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). The resolutions are being presented by the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Thank you to Randy and the UBE for all the work.

Canon Judith Gregory, Province III Treasurer, gave the following financial report:

Thank you to all the provinces that made their apportionment payment. We ended up with just under $25,000.00. We voted to spend money in January and February that we had not yet received. A lot of those events did not take place. We didn’t meet in person. No travel expenses, etc. Youth events that were budgeted did not happen. We paid what we needed to pay, and we didn’t spend on a lot of things that we didn’t need to because things did not happen. So, we ended up with a surplus of just under $25,000.00.

The budget has a slightly negative bottom line. 2021 budget has already been approved by Provincial Council; as such, it is being presented. It does not need approval. Budget has a slightly negative bottom line. Not everything has happened in the beginning of the year. It should work out by the end of 2021.

The $5000 for General Convention which will not happen, will go to 2022.

We propose that the 2022 apportionment rate stay the same as 2021 at .0035 percent. What will 2022 look like? It will be based on the 2020 diocesan report at .0035 percent. This comes from the Provincial Council so it does not need a second. There was no discussion. Nathaniel explained the process about the recommendation from Provincial Council. The Synod needs to approve it. The motion carried.

Judi gave the financial report from 2020. The group just needs to receive it. It does not need to be approved. There was a motion from Nathaniel Pierce, seconded by Kevin Cross that the Synod receive the 2020 report. The motion carried.

There was a question about the surplus money and if it is carried over to the 2021 budget. Judi explained that it just goes into the Province III account as an asset. It was suggested that a balance sheet would help to explain that to anyone who was not part of this meeting. Judi plans to create a balance sheet regarding this matter.

We then had reports from the officers of Province III:

Bishop Klusmeyer, Province III President, thanked everybody on the executive committee and the ministry coordinators for all the work they have done and continue to do in Province III. It is a different province than the one he came into 20 years ago. It is a very good province. We have become, if not the strongest, one of the strongest provinces in The Episcopal Church.

Vice-president Nathaniel Pierce thanked Warren Wong, of Province VIII, for joining us. Nathaniel spoke of Province III as a great organization. The provinces have been in a “no man’s land”. The national level program work has been pushed down to the provincial and diocesan levels. It is a challenge to some provinces, but Province III has been doing well.

Russ Randle reported from the Executive Council that, though all Executive Council members work hard, the finance committee works the hardest. We approved a new legal officer. Live streaming has significantly restricted what Executive Council can do, much more than when we can meet in person. They hope to meet in person at the Maritime Center after the June meeting.

Actions of the recent Executive Council meetings included:

Approval on November 10, 2020 of a permanent Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Kent Anker, who is off to a very good start;

Approval on November 20 of the decision to postpone General Convention until July 7-14, 2022 in Baltimore;

Addressing financial issues on April 16.

At our January meeting, we began to address the relationship with Church Pension Group, and we passed resolutions condemning White supremacy and in support of carbon capture and storage efforts. We also considered the implications of the January 6 insurrection and revised our bylaws to better reflect our strong relationships with the ELCA and the Anglican Church of Canada.

In our April meeting, we adopted a resolution supporting the LGBTQ community, in light of numerous attacks on the LGBTQ community, condemned hate crimes against the AAPI community, and discussed the procedures we will follow for General Convention deputies to elect the Joint Nominating Committee for the next Presiding Bishop, which will occur in June by Convention deputies. As Patti will discuss, we addressed financial issues at length.

Of importance for those at General Convention deputies that may be on this call, GC deputies will be voting for the nominating committee for the next Presiding Bishop. He’ll be reaching the end of his term at the end of 2024. There will be a lot of work for the 2024 convention.

A large portion of the finance committee time was spent on the current triennium budget. These included issues related to General Convention and the cost due to the pandemic. We had to look at the budget in regard to when will travel begin to happen again, etc. We created the $40,000 grant program that is open to every diocese. You should go home and tell your diocese to apply for that to help with the pandemic expenses. If you want to have any discussion about the budget, feel free to speak with Patti.

Christopher Hart (PA) reminded everyone that we used to caucus at General Convention to develop nominees for that joint nominating committee for Presiding Bishop. The last General Convention removed that process and reassigned it to the joint standing committee on nominations and therefore, there is no guaranteed representation in the provincial level for the standing committee for nominations for Presiding Bishop, so you might want to look at who you want to vote for. There is no guarantee that a representative from Province III will be on the committee.

Pam Cochran, Province III coordinator gave her report. She updated us on what is happening in the province. We already heard from the Racial Reconciliation group and the Opioid Task Force. Both of these events—the Kendi book discussion and Ally training—were funded in whole or in part with money from the province. Another group we have put funds aside for, but the money is not yet spent, is the formation and youth ministry groups. Formation ministry covers all ages. They have been doing deep dives into a variety of topics. They recently met with camp directors to discuss how to gather safety in the midst of pandemic. House of Deputies President Gay Clark Jennings is coming to give an introduction to General Convention. They have an intern who has put together a resource page on their website. They had 31 attendees at the Forma Conference. At that conference they announced and solicited for another youth pilgrimage on racial reconciliation. It is planned for October 9 and will be hybrid: part online and part in person. They are calling it a “pilgrimage in a bag”. The co-chairs are Tony Snow (DE) and Jessica Stehle (Easton). There are basically about 20 people on the committee working on the process. We had a joint Synod/Council in October, and we are planning our Provincial Council for the fall on Monday, November 8th. That will be a hybrid meeting. ECW in the province has their meeting on May 8th, virtually. They are working on becoming members of the Beloved Community. Worship will be led by Union of Black Episcopalian. Steven Jones is working with General Convention vendors to have them providing locally produced food.

Bishop Klusmeyer asked if there is any other business for the Synod. Hearing none, he adjourned us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.