Attendance: 40

Florence Atwood (Pitt.)

Anne Bardol (NWPA)

Sandra Bjork (Easton)

Nathan Brown (DC)

Veronica Chappell (CPA)

Ted Christopher (CPA)

John Church (SWVA)

Pamela Cochran (MD)

Ellyn Crawford (VA)

Drew Dorgan (CPA)

Sharon Downey (NWPA)

John Downey (NWPA)

Mathy Milling Downing (DC)

Patricia Downing (DE)

Mary Friel (Easton)

Christopher Hart (PA)

Glenna Huber (DC)

Robert Ihoff (MD)

Bob Klip (CPA)

Chris McCloud (MD)

Bonnie McCrickard (PA)

Eric McIntosh (Pitt.)

Kathleen Murray (VA)

Nathaniel Pierce (Easton)

Michael Roberts (WV)

Jane Roth (VA)

Nancy Sands (SVA)

Charles Schindler (SWVA)

Helen Sharp-Williams (SVA)

Steve Stagnitta (Pitt.)

Philip Steptoe (WV)

Matthew Taylor (DC)

Eddie Vance (Easton)

Marc Vance (SVA)

David Wacaster (DC)

Liz Wendt (PA)

Cheryl Wild (NWPA)

Geoffrey Wild (NWPA)

Michael Wood (DE)

Steven Jones (DE)

**PROVINISIONAL MEETING**:

Welcome: At 8:31 am, Executive Committee President, The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce (Easton), welcomed all in attendance. Matthew Taylor, Executive Council Representative, led us in Morning Prayer.

At 8:48, the Rev. Pierce noted that this Synod lacked a quorum of bishops (3) needed to conduct business as usual. The Provincial Council, which will convene for a special meeting at the end of the Synod, will ratify all decisions, but the proposed amendments to the Ordinances will be postponed till next year’s Synod when it is expected that a quorum of bishops will be present. This meeting of Synod is provisional.

Action:

**The Rev. Glenna Huber (Washington) made a Motion to accept the minutes and adopt the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding the concern of low Bishop attendance. Ms. Evelyn Crawford (Virginia) seconded it. Adopted.**

At 8:59, Strategic Planning: the Rev. Pierce reviewed the origins of P-3’s prior strategic plan, which was driven by the changes, and trends. It was written by him, Eddie Vance, Russ Randle and others. The plan identified ways in which to improve our ministry and deliver better services throughout the Province. In 2016, the Ad-Hoc Committee on Provincial Restructure drafted, *Adapting the Province to Serve Our Church Better for Upcoming Decades: Report to Province 3 Provincial Synod*. Emphasis was placed on shared ministries and support for each other across diocesan lines and taking advantage of web-based technologies we currently take for granted today like Zoom.

At 9:12 Pam Cochran presented a model for organizational development/growth/change. She noted change is challenging given its impact on various interconnected elements of an organization. Those elements made up six categories: Strategy; Dynamics; People; Leadership; Process and Structure which operate in a climate/culture space. After asking us what she felt our strengths and weaknesses were, we broke off into small groups. She asked us where we felt Province 3 was strong and weak. Structurally we felt we were strong in leadership as an organization having Executive Council representatives like Matthew Taylor and the Rev. Patty Downing as our representatives to the national church from the Province. We also felt we were strong in the area of innovation as witnessed in new ministries like Camp Spirit Song and Environmental Stewardship. We felt we were weak in the process or dynamics department given the lack of Episcopal engagement as witnessed during this year’s Synod, the response to the apportionment rebate and the Harriet Ross Tubman commemoration grant from our member dioceses. More must be done to demonstrate and articulate the value of Province 3 to the bishops and members of all 13 dioceses. There was discussion to reconsider the date of the 2024’s Synod with the thought that the Monday is a day off for many bishops. It was acknowledged that a better job had to be done in getting the word out. Note: for the previous six years the Province III Synod has met on the first Sunday in May.

At 10:01 Canon Judith Gregory presented the Treasurer’s report for 2022 via Zoom. The Apportionment Return in 2022 produced a $9,221.52 deficit covered by the cash account as did to a lesser demand for the Harriet Tubman grant. Canon Gregory made a **motion** to accept the 2021-2022 financials, which was **accepted** by acclamation:

*Resolved*, That the Province III Synod, meeting in Martinsburg, WV, on Monday, May 1, 2023, receives the **financial report** for January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, as submitted by the Treasurer.

She proceeded to review the 2023 budget as adopted at Council last fall and made a **motion** to accept which was seconded by Chris Hart and **approved:**

*Resolved*, That the Synod Province III, meeting in Martinsburg, WV, on Monday, May 1, 2023, receives the 2023 budget as adopted by the Provincial Council on November 7, 2022 (to be reviewed by the Province III Synod as per Ordinance VI, Sec. 1).

Canon Gregory also **moved** that we maintain the 2024 Apportionment formula factor of 0.035 (0.35%) was seconded by Chris Hart and **approved**:

*Resolved*, That the Province III Synod, meeting in Martinsburg, WV, on Monday, May 1, 2023, adopts the figure of 0.35% (0.0035) for calculating the **2024** **apportionment** from each Diocese to support the **2024** budget of Province III (as per Ordinance VI, Sec. 2) as recommended by the Provincial Council on November 7, 2022. [This figure has remained the same since 2019.]

A Province III audit is underway. Canon Gregory will be stepping down as Treasurer next year and is searching for a replacement; she will update us of likely candidates.

Finally, Canon Gregory explained she is on the board of the Episcopal Women’s History Project which is supporting The Philadelphia Eleven about the first women ordained as Episcopal priest in 1974. The production is close to completion and the company is seeking funds to close the gap; she **moved** that the Province donate $1,300, a symbolic $100 per diocese, to the project. The motion was seconded and **adopted:**

*Resolved*, That the Province III Synod, meeting in Martinsburg, WV, on Monday, May 1, 2023, approves and ratifies the decision of the Executive Committee to contribute $1,300.00 ($100 per diocese in Province III) to Documentary Educational Resources, Inc. – Philadelphia Eleven Film Project, in support of a documentary film devoted to the ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven in 1974.

At 10:26 there was a 15-minute break.

The Provincial Coordinator’s Report: insert?

At 11:05 am, the Rev. Dr. Ted Christopher, Chaplain at Penn State University and Province 3 Campus and Student Ministry Coordinator gave us an update. He noted the (6/20-23) Adult Campus Ministry Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA. Becca Stevens will be the keynote. He also noted that the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Grants deadline is an overlooked formation resource. The deadline is in November and he would be happy to assist with framing the narrative.

At 11:20 the Rev. David Wacaster, (Washington) and the Rev. Chris McCloud (Maryland), Coordinators of Racial Justice, Reconciliation, and Anti-Racism, jointly made their presentations. The Rev. Wacaster noted the shift in anti-racism/reparation work and he is searching for ways to better support dioceses and re-establish point-people. He especially noted the need for white people, in particular males, to get involved. Becoming the Beloved Community will sunset when the current Presiding Bishop steps down next year.

The Rev. McCloud presented a portion of the video: “The Trail of Souls: A Journey Toward Truth and Transformation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_rTzsuB0jo>) and shared some remarks clarifying the dynamics of atoning for past injustice. She noted the work of seeking: reconciliation, and repentance is complicated, but can be as simple as integrating a cemetery. “You have to be willing to do the work and committed to seeking the truth.”

At 12:30 – 1:02 pm: Lunch was provided

At 1:11pm. Matthew Taylor (Washington) explained the Harriet Tubman grant process. Also, being one of our Executive Council Representatives, he reported on the 2023 meeting in San Francisco (2/9-12); he is a member of the Joint Mission Beyond the Church committee. The Rev. Patty Downing (Delaware) is our other Executive Council Representative and serves as Chair of the Financial and Joint Budget Committee (JBC). She noted the budgeting process for the 2025-27 triennium has begun. She reported on the budgets of: Racial Reconciliation; Creation Care and Evangelism and the national church’s decreasing assessments, a function of post-COVID impacts, resulting in a $20 million short-fall for mission. The expectation is that DFMS will have fewer financial resources to support our ministries. She asked us to attend the listening sessions to prioritize ministries not already included so that potential excess funds will not be automatically applied to current operations. The next JBC session is in June.

At 1:28 pm The Rev. John Downey (WNY & NWPA) reported on ecumenical relations and the state of continuing conversations with denominations, such as the Lutherans and Presbyterians, and our ecumenical relationships in: Canada, Germany, and Sweden.

At 1:45 pm Steven Jones (Delaware) Coordinator for Environmental Stewardship noted accomplishments: e.g., he has compiled a new list of P3 Creation Care contacts introducing himself and asking for their input as to topics of interest. He reached out to Episcopal Camps and Conference Center (ECCC) Executive Director Jess Elfring-Roberts re exploring how ECCC facilities may support local food producers; convened meetings with The Claggett Center’s Lisa Marie Ryder and Thomas Roberts, Director of Guest Experience, to get to know everyone and begin exploring expectations and timelines for procuring local food. Will be following up with Ms. Ryder after the center’s capital campaign for the center’s barn and will update Future Harvest (http://futureharvest.org) who will assisting identifying potential Fredrick County growers The goal is to have this established by 2024.

At 1:58 pm Drew Dorgan (Central PA) presented an update on the state of the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania’s and Bethlehem’s reunification discussions. Both are healthy, vibrant dioceses with different profiles: CPA is generally white and rural, while Bethlehem is generally multi-racial and urban. It is agreed that a possible reunification will result in greater community impact.

At 2:14 pm The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce (Easton) presented the need to adopt two policies:

Resolved, That the Synod of Province III, meeting on May 1, 2023, at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, West Virginia, hereby adopts this policy:

**Province III Endorsement of a Constable or Roanridge Grant Application**

Any Diocese of The Episcopal Church may submit an application for a grant from the Constable or Roanridge Funds administered by the Executive Council of the DFMS. An endorsement from the respective Province is now encouraged but no longer required. If an endorsement from Province III is desired, the Executive Committee thereof will need three weeks to process the request. The criterion for such an endorsement will be the extent to which the proposed project will benefit other or all dioceses of Province III. A specific section in the grant proposal devoted to this issue is encouraged.

Motion moved by Pierce , and Ashely Murray seconded; **approved.**

**Authorization to Financially Support Projects in other Provinces**

The Executive Committee of Province III is authorized to financially support projects developed or sponsored by other Provinces of the Episcopal Church. Such grants shall not exceed more than $1,000 for any one project and may not exceed a total of $3,000 in any calendar year. A full report on all such grants shall be given either to a meeting of the Provincial Council or the Synod, whichever occurs first.

Michael Roberts moved and it was seconded and **approved** by acclamation.

At 2:18 pm Ms. Mathy Milling Downing presented her United Thank Offering update on the impact in the province.

At 2:21 pm Ms.. Nancy Sands (Southern VA) updated Synod on the state of the ECW. The Rt. Rev. Susan Egoff will be speaking an upcoming meeting. Meetings have resumed.

At 2:26 pm Ms. Joanne Fisher (Easton) and Ms. Kate Riley (Maryland) Coordinators for Christian Formation & Youth Ministry (via Zoom) reported on the upcoming (7/4-8) Episcopal Youth Events (EYE) at College Park, also they noted the pre-EYE event (7/3-4) involving a delegation to the National Cathedral.

Towards the end of the provisional meeting of the Province III Synod, a meeting of the Provincial Council was convened by the President, the Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce. Representatives from twelve Dioceses were present thereby constituting a quorum. The following motion was moved, seconded, and **adopted**:

Resolved, That the Province III **Provincial Council**, meeting in Martinsburg, WV, on Monday, May 1, 2023, approves and ratifies all motions adopted during this provisional meeting of the Province III Synod on this same date.

The meeting of the Provincial Council then adjourned.

At 2:34 pm, Dr. Pamela Cochran (Maryland) for her Meeting Evaluation presentation polled how we rated across six areas: 1) Mission, 2) Purpose, 3) Setting and 4) Prioritization, 5) Pace and 6) Personal Contribution, at this year’s Synod. The objective was to optimize the time allocated to individuals. It was noted that the Rev. McCloud needed more time; also, reports may be in “priority areas” often requiring more time for discussion. Subjects that need more time should start earlier was one comment. In reference to Personal Contribution and being inclusive one comment was that all Synod participants should be mentioned and their attendance listed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by the Rev. Nathaniel Pierce at 2:58 pm.

Stephen Jones, Secretary