

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2017
CLAGGETT CENTER, BUCKEYSTOWN, MD

10:15 Introductions - Scott Slater

9:54 Morning Prayer was held in the meeting room, due to the size of the group, we were not able to fit into the Silo Chapel.

The Rt. Rev Mike Klusmeyer, Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia and President of the Council gave his greetings and opening remarks. He introduced the Executive Committee. They are, Scott Norris, Russ Randle, Nathaniel Pierce, Karen Stewart, Bob Kilp, Pam Cochran, Bishop Mike, and Eddie Vance. Everyone on the council holds the Province highly and have been diligent in keeping up with our scheduled meetings.

Present were:

Executive Committee:

President – Rt. Rev. Mike Klusmeyer
Vice President – Mr. K. Scott Norris
Treasurer – Ms. Karen Kinnamont Stewart
Coordinator – Dr. Pamela DH Cochran
Secretary – Mr. Robert L. Kilp

Executive Council Reps.:

Rev. Nathaniel Pierce
Mr. Russ Randle

Diocesan Reps:

Mr. Jack Barrow – SW VA
Col. Jean D. Read – VA
Dr. Linda K. Rogers – BETH
Rev. Sheila Brigid Sharpe – DE
Rev. Scott Slater – MD
Mr. Phil Steptoe – WV
Mr. Eddie Vance – EAST
The Very Rev. Scott Quinn – PITT
Ms. Barbara Miles - WASH

Guests:

Ms. Ellyn Crawford – VA
Ministry Coordinators:
Rev. Sarah Lamming – Formation
Mrs. Joyce Haines – UTO
Ms. Nancy Travis Bolden – Anti-Racism
Rev. Patrick Collins – Vocations Ministry
Rev. Linda Watkins – Justice and Peace
Rev. Maria Tjeltveit – Ecumenical Affairs

Participants introduced themselves, and the Acceptance of Meeting Norms and Agenda were reviewed by Scott Norris: Begin on time, one speaker at a time, concentrate on hearing skills and active listening, make “I” statements, respect others’ opinions, express your discomfort in a timely manner, and please silence all your electronic devices.

Bishop Klusmeyer presented the agenda and asked if there were any recommended changes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. It was so moved, and seconded. The motion carried.

Review of 2016 Minutes were approved as corrected and amended: Shepherd, not Sharp (page 5). Pg. 3: 5th bullet should be \$75,000 grant, not \$750,000. Pg. 6: 2% (increase). Province three was corrected to Province III (website correction). Scott Slater moved to accept as corrected. The motion was seconded by Jack Barrow. The minutes were approved.

President’s Remarks: Bishop Klusmeyer discussed the process and the need for training for Title IV procedures. He also talked about the Opioid Task Force and how we have been working to take on this problem. He stressed that it is not a Diocese of West Virginia problem, or just a Province III, or Episcopal Church problem. It is a widespread problem in our country, and our task force is going after the problem head-on. We are always looking for more people to be involved. He also thanked

Pam Cochran for the work she has been doing to organize this group and its meeting and to Karen Stewart for all the work she has been doing to get a draft budget to us.

The question was raised about why we were holding a Title IV Training, when there was a resolution and funds appropriated at GC 2015 to have church wide training. Russ Randle responded that training development is ongoing, but the material is still not ready to roll out. In the interim, our dioceses are still having to deal with Title IV and need help. Pam has gotten the information together to give that help. The conference will be held on Fri., Feb. 9th (bishops) and Feb. 10th for everyone else. Plans are being developed for it to be held at the Maritime Institute.

We held a Coordinated Ministries Q&A and introduced Maria Tjeltveit as the Province III coordinator for Ecumenical Affairs. She is from the Diocese of Bethlehem (Moravian Land). She met Nathaniel through the EDEIO, and now she is connected to the Province. SCEIR (Standing Commission on Ecumenical Interreligious Relations) oversees ecumenical affairs for the Episcopal Church. SCEIR sets the policy for Episcopal Church on statements made by other churches. They meet in Florida every year. Maria is unable to attend, and Nathaniel has offered to go in her place. There is a documentary series on Islam provided by the Lutheran church (Copyright 2011 Muhammad Quadir). An ecumenical and interreligious officer in each diocese should have five copies that they can share with you. In PIII, there is at least one Ecumenical and interreligious officer in each diocese except Delaware. One will soon be appointed by the new bishop there. Bishop Klusmeyer is that officer in WV. There are a lot of creative things going on in our province. Russ Randle asked the question: At the Executive Council level, we have regular representation from the ELCA. Since we are in full communion with a parallel structure with Lutherans, will we be able to get someone from the Lutherans to be part of our Opioid Taskforce? Can she facilitate? Maria said “yes”. Nathaniel made a motion that Maria be appointed the Province III Coordinator of Ecumenical Relations. Russ Randle seconded. The motion carried.

Questions for coordinators about their written reports:

Linda Watkins of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania introduced herself as the new Peace and Justice coordinator. She is a 3rd order Franciscan. April 20-23, 2018 are Ecumenical Advocacy Days. There are a wide variety of social justice issues addressed, along with advocacy training, and you will get to meet your Congressional Reps. We will march on the Capitol as a group.

Sarah Lamming announced that the Formation meeting would not be held, so funds to assist Province III people to attend were not used. Eformation will be held at VTS on Jan. 12th & 13th. Her wife’s church received a grant from UTO – a grant from the state of \$1.2 mil. UTO gave a \$40,000.00 grant for a storm water project. They are becoming a showcase not only for their church, but, also for PIII. Look on the Prov. III website under coordinated ministries.

The Advocacy Board met at Maritime Center in September. They went to DC to the Episcopal Policy Network, and they spoke with Allen Yavo, who is the coordinator for the advocacy group. He arranged so they had time to visit with their Congressmen. He gave a little workshop on how to approach your Congressmen, and how to be effective in having us feel ready. It was amazing what the Episcopal Church is doing, and the Baptists, as well.

Linda Watkins made a statement that we should know that the social justice folks can only work on issues authorized by General Convention, or on that for which they have made an official statement.

Karen – Financial Statement – We have had a surplus for the past few years. We have not spent the money, but it has been coming in. Last year at Synod, we reduced our allocations because we had a surplus. We were telling the dioceses that we expect them to do something with the money that we've reduced from their expected contributions to the Province. We have a \$24,000 shortfall. We received more allocation from Central Pennsylvania because they paid the full allocation, rather than the reduction. DC paid even though they said they would not. They will not pay for 2018. There is an overlap in compensation. We've already overspent the budget in 2017.

There were no questions:

We are spending a little more on the coordinator expenses. She is seeing more activity on the higher education budget, and some more with youth budget. We've budgeted \$10,000 for new ministry expense that was budgeted under a \$14,000 amount that was set aside to do something with it. \$10,000 was used for the Claggett upgrade, leaving \$4,000 for the Opioid Task Force Meeting here at Claggett at the end of October. We will need to cut about \$59,000 from the budget. If you have expenses outstanding, please get them in to Karen. Russ Randle made a motion to receive treasurer's report. It was seconded by Scott Slater. The motion carried

There was a question from Scott Norris, asking that before getting into the budget, how much is left in the surplus. Karen said we have approx. \$150,000 in the bank. Still have underperforming ministries. Some dioceses paid more than the allocation. This report will be posted on Prov. III website on Thursday.

We took a 15 minute recess.

When we returned, Jean Reed asked a question for reference in regard to the \$10,000 and \$4,000 expenses. He wanted to clarify that they were expenses already spent, and not outstanding? Karen's answer was "Yes".

We then started a discussion on the budget. The Higher Education budget has gone up by about \$5,000.00. They are asking for 40 hours of paid intern labor at Bruton Parish Church, to generate a provincial center, to update and create a campus ministry list, and to create and maintain a campus ministry map. It is also, for an annual campus ministry retreat with \$0 campus ministry fees. And, travel expense for retreat leaders and coordinator, and materials supplied for the retreat. Total expense for the retreat alone is \$5,000.00. They would also like for provincial campus ministries to have a coffee budget for campus ministries to provide coffee and some food for some of the students during one-on-ones throughout the province (not just Bruton Parish). That would be \$500 to \$1,000.

Nathaniel spoke about the rationale behind lowering the diocesan asking for DFMS from 19% to 15% thinking that its programmatic costs that did not have to be done at the DFMS level, could go to the level of provinces and dioceses over a three year period. Yet, when the proposal was put before Synod, it was rejected. We cannot maintain income at the same level or higher, with expenses that are going up.

He proposed that we enact a 25% increase for 2019. It's too late to change it for 2018.

The current budget surplus is about \$150,000.00. We need to show that we are meeting the needs of the dioceses by what we are proposing in our 2018 budget. Are we meeting the needs of our dioceses by what we are doing here in youth ministries? Bishops that have responded to the coordinator are clearly saying priorities include Title IV training, diaconal formation, youth, and small church. They are the most common priorities.

Jean Read made a motion to have the numbers for small church coordinator back in, and that will increase the budget by \$2,500.00. Karen commented that we're going in the wrong direction in trying to reduce the budget. The question was asked how much should we have in reserve so we don't have a problem with a cash shortage. Karen's response was "absolutely \$50,000.00. We'd like it to be more, but that is the absolute minimum." Jean's motion carried. There was then a question about why we are amending the budget by line item, instead of an entire budget. Russ Randle then moved to accept the budget the whole budget as amended. It was seconded by Sarah. In the discussion it was suggested to put the \$3,250.00 for formation back in the budget. The question was called, amending the budget again with the \$3,250.00 for formation. That motion carried.

Scott Norris asked Karen what she was comfortable with taking out of the surplus. She answered \$40,000.00.

Russ Randle moved that the difference between revenue and the budgeted spending not be taken from the surplus, entirely. Jean Read seconded the motion. The number was \$65,665.02. Scott Slater stated in the discussion that he opposed the motion. He said he would like to see us close the gap and reduce the money to less than \$65,000.00.

There was a question about the ministry coordinators not being invited to attend this meeting. Bishop Klusmeyer clarified that the coordinators should be here, and they were never discouraged from attending. They were asked to submit their reports in writing since it would only be a one day meeting, but they should still always be part of the discussion at these meetings. Those people always do have a voice, but they do not have a vote, because only executive council members have a vote at this meeting. Both Bishop Klusmeyer and Pam Cochran apologize if there was any confusion to the ministry coordinators.

Russ Randle had made a motion to authorize the Provincial Coordinator to set appropriate attendance fees, and those fees should be reviewed by the Coordinator and the President. It was seconded by Jean Read. The motion carried.

We then went back to discussing the budget motion that was made prior to the ministry coordinator discussion, that had not been passed. The motion was tabled until after lunch.

Russ Randle moved that we accept the budget presented by Karen. Scott Norris seconded it. The motion passed to approve the budget.

An amendment was made to the Anti-Racism line item to reduce it back down from \$5,800.00 to \$5,000.00. Jean Read moved to accept. Scott Slater seconded.

A motion was made to authorize the Coordinator and the President to cut the budget by up to \$1,500.00, using their discretion, and to present said budget to the Synod for approval. In that budget, the Anti-Racism budget will be put back up to \$5,000.00. The motion was made by Russ Randle, and seconded by Eddie Vance. The motion passed.

Nathaniel Pierce discussed a proposed amendment to Ordinance VI. This proposes to amend the ordinances, so that for the Synod meeting in 2018, each delegation, which is comprised of 1 Bishop, 1 Clergy and 2 lay people, will elect one of their members to be on the council. Then the President of the Executive Council is allowed to appoint some additional people, to be on the council. Then the officers and the two representatives on the Executive Council will comprise the membership of this group. This can't be voted on today, but it will be on the agenda for the Synod meeting next May.

A difference in our province as compared to other provinces is that this body has made Nathaniel and Russ voting members of the Executive Council.

General Convention Planning – Resolutions at General Convention come from the provinces. So, if there is something that you feel is important to be considered, that the Province wants to be presented in the form of a resolution, Bishop Mike encourages people to send their resolutions to the Province. Resolutions from the Provinces get into the mix early at the convention, and it gives the people at General Convention a heads-up as to resolutions that are coming their way. Get any resolutions to Pam Cochran by March 1st, 2019.

Russ Randle moved to authorize the President to appoint Nathaniel Pierce to head a resolutions committee of up to 5 people to serve and have the resolutions ready by March 1, 2019. It was seconded by Eddie Vance. The motion passed.

Scott Norris thanked everyone who has served through this term of service. There were a lot of meetings and a lot of people dedicated a lot of time into all this activity. He encouraged people to look on the website. The video reports, information about the Title IV conference, and the dates are all on the site. The site has been well served by Ann Turner, who only a year ago agreed to set up the website, and she will continue as our website administrator. Ann is amazingly fast when we need something done on there. The social justice meetings are all on the website. Another positive is that we have 13 ministries, and we've had reports, which are mostly on the website, and we've had some of them here. There were 11 of them. This is a substantial improvement over the past. One thing that we did not get done, was that last year Russ made a motion at last year's council meeting that a committee which included Scott and Ellen, were to come up with role descriptions of the executive committee, including the coordinator. We took care of the coordinator by hiring Pam, but the others is something that we did not get done.

Pam commented that as coordinator she is trying to update a contact list with the dioceses, meeting with the Bishops, Bishops' staffs and assistant Bishops, talking to them, telling them they are our clients, we serve them. So what are your needs? Where can we, or other dioceses help you? It's been very interesting to hear. Some of the dioceses are doing really well with Small Church ministries. They have things that they can use to help other dioceses. Central Pennsylvania has the Stevenson School of Ministry, and they can help. Title IV training is an area where we need help with. What do

we do first? That has been a priority. They have set aside the date of February 9th to meet about this. It may not be on the website yet, but she was pretty sure it will be at the Maritime Museum. If we have an overwhelming response, we might have to start charging a fee so it doesn't go over budget. Pam asked if there were any questions for her.

Russ asked what surprises she has encountered since taking the Coordinator position. It was how the willing the Bishops have been to talk to her, and in responding to her. But they've also all been generous in supplying her with the names of who her contact persons are in those dioceses. The other thing was that she was really shocked how quickly we were able to settle on a date for the conference. The takeaway is that there is a recognized appreciation for working together.

Russ followed up with a question to Pam, "are there specific things that she needs from Council to help her prepare to make the Synod a success?" Pam's response is that if those that are here now, would respond to her as to who are their deputies and representatives. A list that is correct would be helpful. It would also be helpful if we all go back to our dioceses and report to them what has happened here at the meeting. Bishop Mike said that it is great to have Pam onboard.

Eddie Vance reported that the deadline for resolutions is July 6th at 5:00 pm at convention which is the second day.

Executive Council Report -There is litigation – 3 cases of importance 1. Bishop Sauls, who was the Chief Legal Counsel, until about a year and a half ago, filed suit against DFMS (Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. It was dismissed because there was not enough for lack of jurisdiction. He is from New York and it was clearly a case of hometown pride with prejudice vs. the Church. It has been refiled in the state of New York. Until this past summer we did not have a Chief Legal Officer. We are now fortunate to have Douglas Hemming. We're happy to have him. You may have noticed that there was 10 years of litigation at the Diocese of San Joaquin. They had taken steps in 2006 and 2007 toward succession. All but one of those cases has been resolved. 41 of 42 dioceses returned to the Episcopal Church. That diocese is essentially being reconstituted. They have recovered 41 properties, but they will have to sell 25 of them. They need to reconstitute 21 parishes. Finally, in the litigation front, our Presiding Bishop has joined with some other denominations. This is the Masterpiece Bakery vs. the State of Colorado. This is the famous "I will not sell to same sex couples". When one enters into commerce, you serve everyone that comes to you. The Presiding Bishop was not persuaded, and he joined in support of the State of Colorado. Changing course, Russ talked about budget, and this is why what we are all doing here is important. Assessments have been cut. It is going down to 15%. That means that there is no surplus, and don't look to 815 for financial help. We have to look to our dioceses and parishes in order to address the things that we have going on. It was determined at General Convention. We were drawing at 5.75 %. The numbers now being talked about is 5%. That is sustainable, but if the stock market tanks, we'll be in trouble. Refugee resettlement, that is a per refugee payment. We need to work together if we're going to be successful. Nathaniel commented about a resettlement center in Charleston, WV. Not certified by the State Department, so it didn't happen. They are cutting down on the number of refugees from 110,000 to about 47,000. The EMM will continue to try and support the center in Charleston, and keep them engaged and try to keep them in the network.

There is some good news for some dioceses in our province. Congratulations to the Virginia/Haiti Collaborative. To SW VA for developing education resources and communication resources for providing solar power to St. Mark's Episcopal School in Haiti. Diocese of Delaware got a \$5,000 grant for continuing to bring all diocesan properties in compliance with repairs. The advisory group on church planting, the Diocese of Virginia, \$10,000 was awarded in 2017, and \$10,000 in 2018. We need to make our dioceses aware that these programs are out there, and assist them in applying for these grants. If you don't apply, you won't get a grant. We recommended last year that each diocese support one person in the Young Adults Service Corps. DFMS pays \$15,000 toward the cost, and diocese, parish and individuals are expected to raise \$10,000 toward the rest of the cost. Province III, in the past has supported more people in this program than any other province in the Episcopal Church, and hopefully will continue to help provide this wonderful opportunity to young adults.

The current draft budget for the next triennium is going to be published in mid-November (around the 12th of November). It will be open for comments until about the end of the year. Then Executive Council is scheduled to meet in January. Do send in your comments if you have some. They do make a difference. In regard to the budget Nathaniel feels that we are at the upper limits of what we can draw on. He feels even 5% is too much. This is what is proposed for this budget. We should flag the line items for supporting the two remaining, predominately black colleges that we are supporting. They need our support. What Nathaniel thinks will be a major issue. Executive Council is like the Vestry of DFMS. We work for two years to propose a budget for the next triennium. We then propose the budget, and it goes to the committee of General Convention. It is a joint committee. PBNF takes the budget we adopt, and then takes it to General Convention. The issue is being not so much important from a financial standpoint, but from a philosophical standpoint. Should the President of the House of Deputies be a compensated position? Up to this point, it isn't. We have a line item of \$1million to the House of Deputies should general convention approve it. It has come before General Convention before. It started in 1997. We have two people from this province on the committee. It will come before the General Convention. It is a very important issue. We pay the Presiding Bishop, but not the House of Deputies. Since 1988 we've had a president of the House of Deputies that is either wealthy or retired. It is not the kind of job you do, unless you have a lot of time, are retired and drawing a pension, and are somewhat well off. David Collins has been trying to do the job, but stepped down. He just wanted to flag that issue. On another subject, we have gotten rid of 13 of the 15 standing committees. We have not been able to respond to an issue from the World Council of Churches, because we took away the commission that would respond. There is a proposal to have full communion with the United Methodist Church. It will be decided at their general conference of 2019. Not sure if they won't be split on the issue. Hopefully they will be able to resolve that. They would then vote on that in 2020. It would then come to us to be decided at our General Convention in 2021. There is a good shot at getting the committee back again at this General Convention. Executive Council will meet in January, and again in April. (Nathaniel supplied a written copy of this).

Bishop Mike commented clarification on the Migration Center in Charleston. The Episcopal Migration Committee was up and ready to receive refugees momentarily. The State Department ruled that if a center had not received any refugees yet, and even those that had received some, but did not meet a certain number of refugees, would not, now receive any. Those centers would be

repurposed. The Charleston center has been repurposed. EMM is working very hard to work with them, and we appreciate that.

In regard to the United Methodist Church with their discussions and conversations has hit very close to home, because Bishop Mike's United Methodist counterpart in West Virginia, Bishop Steiner Ball, is chairing the commission on sexuality.

We have elections coming up at the May Synod meeting. We have elections for four offices for a three year term. There is always a joint standing committee for nominations for Presiding Bishop, in the case of, God forbid something tragic would happen to the Presiding Bishop and would need to be replaced, the standing joint committee is up and ready to go to find a replacement. There would be two Clergy and two lay candidates. We send those names to convention for election, and the election would give Province III one of each. (It is one clergy person and one lay person). Also, Nathaniel's term on Executive Council also comes to expiration, and we will need to elect someone to that position. Bishop Mike will have formed a nominating committee, and we can come to Synod with a slate for those positions.

Russ proposed some changes on background checks. There have been some candidates as a wider church, put up for elections to judiciary positions, that would have what Russ would term as disqualifying criminal convictions. We want to avoid embarrassing the Episcopal Church, and we are requiring that they disclose that information before running for one of the positions. We believe in repentance, but we also believe that we need to have that out on the table when people are voting on you. We may at least do a public records search of people that have been put up for elected positions. Nominations deadline should be March 1st. This does not preclude nominations coming from the floor, but it gives us a chance to have people engaged ahead of time.

Scott Slater mentioned something that he feels could affect the province. The Diocese of Maryland has been approached about looking into a branch of the College of Congregational Development (CCD). The Diocese of Olympia has one and the Diocese of Rochester, but there is no branch on the east coast. He's been having a conversation with a couple of his clergy and the CCD coordinator next month. They recommend one diocese do this.

Russ Randle moved to adjourn, closing with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm after a prayer from Bishop Mike Klusmeyer.

Respectfully submitted;

Robert L. Kilp – Province III Secretary