

Minutes of Province III Council Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2015
Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WVA
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Sharon Logsdon, Health Minister; Teri Valente, Youth Ministry; Sheila Sharpe, DE Council Member; Nancy Travis Bolden, Anti-Racism Ministry; Sharon Nachman, Altar Guild; Eddie Vance, Easton Council Member; the Rev. Barbara Seras, Province III Coordinator; Phil Steptoe, WVA; Julie Harris, WVA Council Rep; Michael Roberts, WVA; Nathaniel Pierce, DOV Executive Council Rep; Russ Randle, DOV Executive Council Rep (lay); Scott Norris, DIOSOVA Council Rep; Kellee Wattenbarger, Christian Formation Coordinator; Jack Barrow, DIOSWVA Council Rep; the Rev. Judy Parrish, DIOSWVA, Coordinator of Prov. Small Church; the Rev. Marian Windel, DOV Council Rep and Small Church Coordinator; the Very Rev. Scott Quinn, Pittsburgh Council Rep; Joyce E. Douglas, UTO Rep.

Reflection and Meditation:

After the opening prayer, including reflection and meditation led by Kellee Wattenbarger, participants introduced themselves: Seven diocesan members were present, but no officers were present.

Chairperson of the Meeting:

By consensus The Very Reverend Scott Quinn, Dean of the Cathedral, Diocese of Pittsburgh, agreed to chair the meeting.

Minutes of October 16, 2014 Meeting:

The October 16, 2014 minutes were approved and accepted: moved to accept by Scott Norris and seconded by Julie Harris.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report, read by Barbara Seras, was confusing since the treasurer, Karen K. Stewart, was absent and could not address the discrepancies within the report. For example, there were questions about expenditures, totals, and surpluses.

Executive Council:

The Reverend Nathaniel Pierce, Diocese of Easton; and Russell Randle, Diocese of Virginia lay member, represent Province III on the Executive Council. Nathaniel said that the first meeting of the Executive Council will be held in November. Nathaniel gave information concerning decisions passed at the General Convention. He and Russ led a discussion of the appointments by the Presiding Bishop. Stacy Sauls will continue as the CFO. The Executive Council has been given expanded responsibilities since the General Convention approved the elimination of thirteen standing commissions. Nathaniel also stated that the Executive Council recommended that a general counsel be appointed for The Episcopal Church and that the General Convention mandated the appointment.

Ordinance Revisions:

Eddie Vance and Russ Randle suggested that we have a list of members present, which would include name of diocese and position on council. An attendance sheet was circulated. Motion: Council meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of October: Moved by Eddie Vance and seconded by Jack Barrows. The motion carried.

Eddie and Nathaniel will be a committee of two to revise the ordinances to address certain conditions.

Communications and Structure of Province III:

Russ Randle suggested that we should meet electronically.

Motion: When needed, we should meet electronically. Moved by Julie Harris and seconded by Scott Norris. The motion carried.

The Reverend Marian Wendell gave a summary of Wednesday's coordinator's meeting:

- Update the website.
- More involvement of the bishops.
- Better access to the Province III dioceses, including names of "go-to" staff members.

Russ suggested that we use a virtual meeting with the bishops to voice our concerns, but that we must have an "on-point" agenda with specific topics.

Eddie Vance, Russ Randle, Scott Norris, Kellie Wattenbarger, and Nathaniel Pierce will serve on this committee.

Nathaniel suggested hiring full-time coordinator to strengthen the provincial ministry. He said that financial support from The Church will be slowly phased out over the next three years; at least four resolutions at the General Convention discussed dissolution of financial support.

President's Report:

The Reverend Melanie McCarley was absent and did not send a report.

Coordinator's Report:

The Reverend Barbara Seras gave an overview of the General Convention. The Provincial Leadership Conference (PLC) committees will meet in South Carolina in December to discuss the future of the provinces. SYNOD 2016 is Sunday, April 24 – Monday, April 25, 2016. "Calling the Future Church" Conference is April 25 – April 27, 2016. Both of these conferences are at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV. Nathaniel suggested that everyone remain for "Calling the Future Church."

Barbara Seras confirmed the dates for the Province III meetings as the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of October 26-27, 2016; and October 25-26, 2017.

Report on Coordinated Ministries – Funding Requests

Six of thirteen diocesan ministries gave reports: Christian Formation, Youth, Altar Guild Anti-Racism, United Thank Offering, and Health. Two ministries requested funds. Small Church ministry gave no report.

Kellee Wattenbarger, Diocese of Virginia, gave a report on Christian Formation and requested \$3,000 for her budget.

Sharon Logsdon and Marion Windel, Diocese of Maryland, spent the year working on new contacts in each diocese. They are requesting \$900 this year.

Judy Parrish questioned the validity of not being able to transfer unused funds into the next year.

2016 Budget Approval

After much discussion and confusion over the correct amounts, which led to a break and a telephone call to the treasurer, a motion was made to amend (change) the budget. The motion was made by Russ Randle and seconded by Eddie Vance. The motion carried. After further discussion, a motion to accept the budget as amended was made. The motion was made by Julie Harris and seconded by Scott Norris. The motion carried.

Other Business before Council:

Previously, Nathaniel Pierce had suggested that the province hire a full-time coordinator; however, after much discussion about the mandates of the General Convention and the future of the provinces, he and Russ concurred that a committee be conducted to study restructuring the province to reflect the future of The Church. A motion to form a committee was made by Sheila Sharpe and seconded by Marion Windel. The committee will consist of Russ Randle, Eddie Vance, Julie Harris, and Scott Norris.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce E. Douglas
Province III UTO Representative