

**Province V Synod
St. Michael and All Angels Church
South Bend, Indiana
April 29, 2022
Minutes**

Opening prayer was led by Judith Jordan.

Heather Barta welcomed all participants and thanked people who had worked to prepare for the Synod. Candidates were introduced.

Elections

The following candidates were unopposed and were elected by acclamation:

President: Ms. Jane Cisluycis, Northern Michigan
Vice President: Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, Fond du Lac/ Eau Claire
Secretary: Ms. Adrienne Dillon, TSSF, Missouri
Treasurer: Ms. Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, Chicago
Executive Council Representative (clergy): Rev. E. C. Eccles

There were six candidates for lay representative to Executive Council: (5-year term adjusting for delay of General Convention)

Ms. Adrienne Dillon, TSSF, Missouri
Mr. William Fleener, Jr., Western Michigan
Mr. Lee Kauffman, Ohio
Ms. Ellen Lindeen, Chicago
Ms. Louisa McKellaston, Chicago
Ms. Dianne Audrick Smith, Ohio

Ms. Louisa McKellaston was elected by ballot as the lay representative to Executive Council.

Keynote

Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, who was to be the keynote speaker, was unable to attend because of illness. Jane Cisluycis read her remarks.

Bylaws

Adoption of revised bylaws superseding the bylaws adopted in 2015 was moved by a committee.

William Fleener moved to amend the revised bylaws by deleting the phrase “Province of the Midwest” and inserting “Province V” in Article I, Section 2. The amendment passed.

Revised bylaws were passed as amended.

Financial statements were presented by Rev. Courtney Reid, the outgoing Treasurer, and were approved. The budget for 2022 was approved.

Resolutions

From the Diocese of Missouri

ADD BARBARA CLEMENTINE HARRIS TO CHURCH CALENDAR

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, that the 80th General Convention include and enter Barbara Clementine Harris, Bishop, to the Calendar of the Church year to be celebrated annually on March 13.

EXPLANATION

Barbara Clementine Harris (1930-2020) was ordained to the diaconate in 1979 and to the priesthood in 1980. She was elected Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts in 1988 and consecrated on February 11, 1989. She was the first woman to be consecrated as a bishop in The Episcopal Church and, as a consequence, in the entire Anglican Communion. The Right Reverend Harris fought for civil rights and was respected for her tireless advocacy of racial and sexual justice both within the church and outside of it. She was also active in peace and prison ministries. The date of March 13th celebrates her departure from this life and her entrance into glory.

It was moved by Matthew Buterbaugh and seconded to amend the resolution by asking that the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music consider adding Bishop Harris to the calendar after the required time has passed. The amendment was defeated. The original resolution was passed.

From the Suicide Prevention Network

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention recognize that all Episcopal churches frequently find themselves on the front line of suicide intervention and suicide prevention among all age groups.

Resolved, that this General Convention recognize the good work accomplished by the Department of Faith Formation, thanks to the passage of Resolution 2018 C-014.

Resolved, that Resolution 2018 C-014 be expanded to encompass training on suicide prevention for all age groups and that training be made available to all interested and able members of Episcopal congregations.

Resolved, that the individuals involved in undertaking this work remain cognizant of its relationship to other issues of serious concern to The Episcopal Church: gun violence prevention, substance use, military service, LGBTQ+, and mental health wellness.

Resolved, that as an outreach component to this expanded suicide prevention effort that all branches of The Episcopal Church including every diocese and congregation be encouraged to lobby their respective state governments to adequately fund and implement the new 988 suicide prevention hotline.

Resolved, that the Executive Council of the General Convention administer this Resolution or refer it to the appropriate body.

Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$200,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

The resolution passed.

From the Provincial Leadership Council

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROVINCES

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That The Episcopal Church strengthen the connection and collaboration between The Episcopal Church and its Provinces and Dioceses by:

- enhancing the mission, ministry and networking of the Provinces,
- facilitating the partnership between The Episcopal Church and the Provinces and
- supporting the Provinces in fulfilling canonical responsibilities, and be it further

Resolved That this Provincial ministry be partially funded through the establishment of a budget line item for Provinces I – VIII*, said allocation to be \$10,000 per Province per fiscal year and to be accounted for in the annual Provincial report submitted to Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urges the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to allocate \$160,000 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

*Province IX already receives annual financial support in the current DFMS budget. In the 2021 Executive Council approved TEC budget, lines 542-545 cover expenses related to Provincial Coordination. The total for Provinces I – VIII is \$15,000 for the three years or \$5000 per year for the eight provinces together. This covers the translation expenses for the Provincial Leadership Conference and Provincial Coordinators online meetings. Line 544 is dedicated to “Support for Province IX”. The amount is \$50,000 for the three years or \$16,667 per year. This provides funding for the annual coordination expenses of Province IX.

Provinces are canonically recognized in the structure of The Episcopal Church (See Title I; Canon 9; Section 1 of The Constitution and Canons), and they submit an annual report to Executive Council on their life and ministry. Canon I.9.2 states: "The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate inter-diocesan collaboration to achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts." Funding for this important ministry by our General Convention is needed and appropriate.

Provinces provide the opportunities to build coherence and connectedness between General Conventions. The Episcopal Church benefits organizationally, educationally and financially from this ministry; and Dioceses benefit from the networking that is carried out at the Provincial level. As TREC (Task Force on Reimagining the Episcopal Church) noted in 2015, some programs are best implemented at a regional level. Provinces currently have canonical responsibilities such as electing representatives from the Province to Executive Council thereby ensuring voices from all geographical areas of our church are heard and included in the decision-making process. Provinces also provide critical orientation for the Diocesan deputations to General Convention. Provinces build the networks that help connect those committed to the various issues across the Church. Dioceses and individuals working on various issues are more connected to The Episcopal Church through the networks nurtured by the Provinces.

Stronger Provincial ministries and sense of mission = stronger Provinces = stronger TEC.

The resolution passed.

Opposition to Detention and Surveillance of Immigrants and Asylum-Seekers

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church advocate for an end to detention and other unjust immigration policies, envisioning a just society in which everyone, regardless of national origin, has basic human rights including livelihood, family unity, self-determination, and physical and emotional safety; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention of The Episcopal Church deplore and specifically call for an end to the U.S. government's policy of immigration detention, which is clearly at odds with human welfare and dignity and is also expensive, ineffective, and unnecessary; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention also oppose and call for the U.S. government to cease using electronic monitoring and surveillance of immigrants as an "alternative" to detention, including ankle monitors and mobile-phone-based surveillance technologies, which unjustly deprive them of liberty and privacy and threaten the human rights of all people; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the Office of Government Relations and urge all Episcopalians to advocate for our government to address these serious shortcomings in our treatment of the "strangers in our midst" by advocating for elimination of detention and surveillance in favor of proven policies that:

- Provide true community-based and community-supported alternatives to detention
- Fund non-governmental non-profit organizations to deliver case management support based on individualized needs assessments, including the provision of clear information regarding participants' rights and obligations with regard to immigration processing and the consequences of non-compliance
- Include referrals to community-supported services, including legal services, social services, and medical and mental health support

- Treat asylum seekers and migrants with dignity, humanity, and respect, assuring that any restrictions and compliance obligations placed on participants are the least onerous possible.

Explanation

The vast majority of non-detained immigrants appear voluntarily for their immigration court hearings: From 2008 to 2018, 83% of non-detained immigrants attended all of their hearings, and 96% of non-detained immigrants represented by a lawyer attended all of their hearings.

Nevertheless, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holds tens of thousands of people daily in the equivalent of pretrial detention, without appointed counsel and often without access to bond hearings. Each year, ICE uses several billion taxpayer dollars to jail and deport people who have lived in the United States for decades, including parents of U.S. citizens, and people who arrived recently seeking safety or a better life. They are held in one of more than 200 prisons, jails, and prison-like complexes rife with systemic racism and abuse. These facilities are largely operated by private companies and are remote and isolated.

ICE has also excessively deployed electronic surveillance of immigrants who would not otherwise be detained. Originally proposed in 2004 as a more “humane” alternative to detention, supposedly with the goal of reducing the number of detained immigrants, the electronic surveillance program now monitors more than 180,000 immigrants at any given time. The government is seeking to expand the program to 400,000 by the end of 2022.

Moreover, electronic surveillance has not been used as an alternative or substitute for physical detention. Instead, the two programs have grown side-by-side. Between 2006 and 2021, the budget for detention expanded from \$1 billion to \$2.8 billion while the budget for electronic surveillance grew from \$28 million to \$475 million.

Fortunately, effective and humane alternatives to detention and electronic surveillance do exist. In 2015, a collaborative of more than 400 civil society organizations known as the International Detention Coalition (IDC) completed a wide-ranging analysis of more than 250 examples of alternative programming in 60 different countries. Their report found that successful models engage individuals in the immigration process through informative and community-supported programming, contributing to “positive compliance, case resolution, cost, and health and wellbeing outcomes.”

A fact sheet published by Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Office of Government Relations states that: “The Episcopal Church has longstanding General Convention policy advocating for humane and dignified alternatives to detaining immigrants, acknowledging that the current system of immigrant detention denies asylum seekers and other immigrants due process and holds them for months in often unsafe, unsanitary, and inhumane conditions.” However, recent immigration- and incarceration-related General Convention resolutions (2009-B006; 2012-D059; 2015-A011; 2018-A178; 2018-D009; 2018-D029) do not explicitly oppose the continued existence of the immigrant detention system. They also do not make it clear that electronic surveillance is a growing societal problem rather than an acceptable “alternative” to physical detention.

Therefore, the proposed resolution is needed to update and clarify TEC's position on these important human rights issues. We must add our church's voice to the growing chorus of faith-based and social justice organizations that are calling for the US government to end its unjust detention and surveillance policies and replace them with proven, community-based alternatives that are more effective, less expensive, and far more humane than the existing approaches.

Supporting Documents

1. 11 Years of Government Data Reveal That Immigrants Do Show Up for Court. Report published by the American Immigration Council, based on analysis of 11 years of government data on the rate at which immigrants appear for hearings in U.S. immigration court.
2. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/news/11-years-government-data-reveal-immigrants-doshow-court>
3. 2. A Better Way: Community-based Programming as an Alternative to Immigrant Incarceration. Report published by the National Immigrant Justice Center showing that community-based case management programs have proven successful and describing three specific real-world examples
4. <https://immigrantjustice.org/research-items/report-better-way-community-based-programmingalternative-immigrant-incarceration> 3. Congressional letter of February 22, 2022 to Alexandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, deploring the rapid growth of electronic surveillance programs as an "alternative" to immigrant detention and calling for an end to these programs. The letter is signed by 24 members of congress and endorsed by more than 150 community organizations.
5. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bat4_1rovzm6LLwyT4wZNRYPWA6MCHkT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=108291346453251416518&rtpof=true&sd=true:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bat4_1rovzm6LLwyT4wZNRYPWA6MCHkT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=108291346453251416518&rtpof=true&sd=true

The resolution passed.

From the Anti-Human Trafficking Network

Continue the Fight against Human Trafficking in Province V

Whereas Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that covers both sex and labor exploitation; and the victims of human trafficking include young children, teens, men, and women; and human trafficking is both the second largest criminal industry in the world and the fastest growing, *and*

Whereas, The General Conventions of 2000, 2003, 2009, and 2012 approved five resolutions addressing the serious problem of human trafficking; and these five resolutions are 2000-A057, 2003-A025, 2003-D034, 2009-A167, and 2012-D042, *and*

Whereas These five resolutions contain specific instructions and advice for all Episcopal provinces, dioceses, and congregations to join the effort against human trafficking; and these instructions and advice remain valid and urgently needed, *and*

Whereas, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said in December 2014, “Faith leaders can make sure that every worshipping community know about modern slavery and is ready to work to prevent and end such abuses”; *therefore, be it*

Resolved, This Synod recommits Province V and all branches of the Episcopal Church contained within Province V to the important work that previous General Conventions have called for against the scourge of human trafficking; *and be it further*

Resolved, This Synod encourages all branches of the Episcopal Church contained within Province V to seriously and prayerfully consider taking up the following projects mentioned specifically in the above General Convention resolutions: 1) consult resource materials developed by the Executive Council’s Committee on the Status of Women and Anglican Women’s Empowerment, 2) launch educational campaigns within each diocese and congregation regarding the nature of this problem and ways to combat it, 3) partner with other churches, nongovernmental organizations, and law enforcement agencies to create a victim-centered approach to the fight against trafficking, 4) find ways to meet the medical, psychological, legal, and spiritual needs of victims, 5) support legislation to at all levels to combat this problem, 6) observe every year a Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and 7) dialogue

The resolution passed.

Adjournment

Synod was adjourned at 4:50 pm