

Proposed Resolution for Provincial Synods/Councils

Resolved, That the Provincial Synod of Province V, meeting on April 29, 2022, hereby endorses the following resolution and calls upon the Secretary of the Province to forward this resolution to the Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Barlowe for distribution to the General Convention.

Title: 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 interdiocesan 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 insuring 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.