

TASK FORCE TO STUDY PROVINCES

Members

Ms. Ellen W. Bruckner, <i>Chair</i>	Iowa, VI	2018
Mrs. Angela M. Daniel, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Upper South Carolina, IV	2018
The Rev. Deacon Nancy Crawford, <i>Secretary</i>	Oregon, VIII	2018
The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde	Washington, D.C., III	2018
Mr. Richard Jerry Carroll, Jr.	Albany, NY II	2018
Ms. Bonnie Chambers	Central Pennsylvania, III	2018
The Rt. Rev. Michael J. Hanley	Oregon, VIII	2018
Mr. Thomas W. Peters	Connecticut, I	2018
The Rt. Rev. David M. Reed	West Texas, VII	2018
The Rev. Bayani Rico	Northern California, VIII	2018
The Rev. Consuelo Sanchez	Honduras, IX	2018
Mr. Timothy Skimina	Northern Indiana, V	2018
The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	North Carolina, IV	2018
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	Ohio, V	2018

Note: Each province was represented on this Task Force

Mandate

General Convention 2015 Resolution “Do11 Eliminate Provinces” enabled this Task Force and charged it with the task of studying the potential effects of eliminating the provinces. The enabling resolution also asked the Task Force to consider what structures might replace the provinces that would facilitate the support of the ministry and mission of The Episcopal Church. The Task Force was asked to consider geographical diversity, connections, constitution and overall costs in their work.

Summary of Work

MEETINGS

The Episcopal Church budget allowed for the Task Force to meet face-to-face:

November 18-21, 2015; October 5-7, 2016; March 30 – April 1, 2017

The Task Force used web conferencing for two (2) meetings and conference calls for subcommittee work. Material was shared via the Extranet.

THE WORK

The Task Force immediately recognized the necessity of gathering information that would provide a current picture of the provincial system and structure. To this end, a survey was created and distributed to individuals who interact with the provincial system, including some in positions of leadership in dioceses, General Convention deputies, and some in known networks. A total of five hundred and forty (540) responses to this survey were received. Multiple choice answers with percentages as well as comments to various survey questions were collated.

Task Force members interviewed people in their provinces for perceptions concerning the provincial system in that province. Those interviewed included delegates to provincial synods, diocesan leadership, network participants, staff of The Episcopal Church and dioceses and provincial coordinators. Task Force members contacted other groups and networks who use the provincial system for anecdotal information. During two (2) of their annual meetings, The Provincial Leadership Conference [PLC] (consisting of Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Coordinators of each province) discussed questions from the Task Force. The author of the enabling resolution was contacted in order to explore the intent of the resolution. The Task Force received a written document from the bishops in Province VII with input/suggestions concerning the provincial system.

Another important piece of information is a report from the Archives of The Episcopal Church summarizing the resolutions and legislation pertaining to provinces since the topic of provinces first emerged in 1850. The summary includes the following statement:

“Over the past five (5) decades, the Structure Commission has engaged in an iterative process of organizational review of the provincial system. Issues examined by the Commission include the size, makeup, and functions of both Houses of General Convention, the number of commissions and committees, the functions of the offices and the regional jurisdictions of the Church. These issues were addressed repeatedly and from many different perspectives. In each instance the goals of strengthening communication and encouraging partnerships have been emphasized for the good of Church wide mission.

The General Convention has concluded that the provincial system, while lacking a robust sense of mission and organizational function, fills a relational role for the Church that cannot be easily replaced without re-thinking the usefulness of traditional geographic regionalism. The Church has been reluctant to explore alternative models, although coalitions of interested dioceses have successfully launched sustained efforts in such areas as social justice, ministry and evangelism.”

The report continues with more detailed explanation of the discussions concerning provinces throughout the history of General Conventions.

The Task Force generalized from the survey and other information in order to provide the information and recommendations shared in this report. It is understood that data needs to be interpreted and therefore answers can be considered subjective. The Task Force made every effort to remain objective, however, personal perspectives have a tendency to influence the way each person “sees” the data. As the recommendations that follow emerged, the Task Force checked to ensure the recommendations were informed and supported by the data as much as possible. The Task Force also referred to the enabling resolution to ensure the resolution was being honored.

It should be noted that the members of the Task Force are not of a like mind in their understanding of or expectations of provinces. While members all have experience with the provincial system, the experiences supported a wide variety of perceptions. Conversations leading to the recommendations opened these perspectives and allowed opportunities to explore in more depth the understandings and questions concerning the provincial system and its role in the broader system of The Episcopal Church.

Because of the diversity in perceptions and beliefs about provinces, the Task Force identified their guiding principles:

- The goal of any part of the structure is to promote the mission of the Church;
- The Constitution and Canons must be as flexible as possible;
- Provinces have varying capacity to respond to requests and mandates;
- The role of provinces in polity should be minimized and their role in mission should be maximized;
- Demographics and capacity of each province will guide the ability to respond;
- The structure should be a vehicle for mission;
- Provinces serve the networks/collaborations;
- Appreciating diversity is a core value; recognizing each province will be unique in its gifts, skills and fruitfulness;
- Geographical diversity exists.

THE SURVEY

The survey consisted of ten (10) multiple choice questions dealing with effectiveness of communication and relationship between province and member dioceses. There were four (4) short answer questions dealing with potential effects of eliminating provinces. There was one (1) question about non-contiguous dioceses directed to Provinces II, VIII, and IX. Using the numerical data, the Task Force summarized the first ten (10) multiple choice questions based on percentages. The four (4) short answer questions were summarized anecdotally from the large number of written responses.

To receive five hundred and forty (540) responses to a survey seemed remarkable to the Task Force. It possibly represents the interest in the work of the provinces and/or the commitment to the work of The Episcopal Church. The Task Force is grateful for the many thoughts and for the diversity of opinions expressed.

The Task Force has summarized the multiple choice answers, questions 1-10, as follows:

- Respondents feel provinces are functional as they are currently constructed. 77.5% responded “Highly functional” or “functional”;
- Communication is best between province and its dioceses with only 28% saying “weak” and 16% saying “I don’t know”;
- Communication is worst between province and the church wide level of the structure as well as weak between provinces;
- On the question about provinces enhancing the ministry of the dioceses, 57% said “yes (24%)” or “somewhat (33%), 43% said “no” or “don’t know”;
- The financial aspects of provinces do not seem to be a particular concern;
- There is no clear sense of the origins of negativity toward the provinces;
- Most felt the role of supporting dioceses is the most important role of provinces.

The short answer questions are more subjective.

Question 11: What would be missed if the province was disbanded?

In summary; the presence of a pre-existing structure for collaboration facilitates preparation for General Convention deputies, networking beyond one’s own diocese, and it enables small ministries to find individuals and resources to carry out their role in God’s mission. To remove this structure would jeopardize these advantages.

Question 12: How would a dissolution of provinces affect your networks?

There were four hundred and twenty-nine (429) responses out of a possible five hundred and forty (540). Many responses were short – “I don’t know”, “not at all”. About 37% or one hundred and sixty-two (162) people were in the “no effect at all” category. We interpreted this to mean most people felt the networks functioned irrespective of the province and that networks would continue without the province, or there is no network action in the province to be affected. Some answers included a self-reference to not knowing much about the provinces or networks. The lack of focus on any one idea or effect may lead to the idea there is little distinct reason or knowledge about province and networks, only assumptions. The voices who spoke passionately about the effect came from those who have had an amount of experience with the provinces, so it was clear that for some networks, the effect of eliminating provinces would mean extensive shifts in the network’s organization especially in the area of representation to the network. Some responses mentioned a sense of isolation and loss of a central identity.

Question 13: What roles might provinces play that they are not currently playing?”

There were three hundred and forty (340) (62.9%) responses. About half of the responses mentioned the coordination of resources and sharing ministries between dioceses. Increased networking and carrying out The Episcopal Church initiative were included in this area. The other half of the responses was clustered around “I don’t know” type answers.

Question 14: If the provincial structure did not exist what do you see as the three (3) worst consequences?

Clearly respondents felt the “sense of isolation” would increase and communication would decrease. Networking would be lost or more difficult with no organizational structure. Thirty-nine (39) of three hundred and seventy-three (373) responses said, “no consequences”. Also mentioned was the loss of identity, loss of paid staff, miss getting together and a granting mechanism.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force submits its work as resolutions and recommendations for deliberation. These resolutions and recommendations are based on our research and the guiding principles established for our work.

The provinces are only one part of the complex system called The Episcopal Church, which is itself only one part of the wider Anglican Communion. The enabling Resolution 2015-D011, asked for a Task Force to look at the effects of eliminating the provinces, only one part of this complex system. It also asked for suggestions as to what might be put in place if provinces were to be eliminated. Recognizing the complexity of systems means realizing that changing one part of the system will often affect other parts of the system in unintended and/or unrecognizable ways. Drawing on the brief historical report from the Archives as well as systems and complexity theory, it may be said that the pattern of having some type of structure connecting the diocesan level with the church wide level is important. The pattern suggests that if this current iteration of a “provincial system” was eliminated some other structure would emerge to try to stabilize the disorder caused by the elimination of the current provincial system. Rather than invent something new, the recommendation is to look at what already exists and maximize what is working, as well as shifting what may not be working in each of the provinces. The energy in the system needs to support the mission of the Church, not be used in maintaining the structure. There is a structure in place which functions, with varying degrees of effectiveness, and this existing structure can be used to continue to build those areas that support the mission of the Church. Again, the passionate responses from the survey indicated that the existence of a “provincial” structure is important. Even though there were voices who did not know anything or had limited information, these voices are only a part of the answers and we should use caution if we assume that if the system is not well known it does not need to exist.

In particular, at this time, attention needs to be given to strengthening the networking opportunities. In this time of discernment (see resolution below), provinces will be able to determine how best to

use their function of connectors and communicators. Recognizing the existence of coordinators whose purpose is to be that connector in the province offers the province the ability to expand the networking experiences to include not only those networks already formed, but to discern those ministry/mission issues that may be emerging and in need of an intentional nurturing in order to grow. There may be an assumption that networks will function on their own given the technologies allowing expanded communications that exist today. While technology today certainly enhances the connection opportunities for some, it also may limit many from being part of a network due to geographical inconsistencies and other barriers that prevent wide spread access to all the technology. The provinces are in a position to prophetically keep the Church aware of the mission and ministry needs throughout the whole Church providing a picture and map that will guide the whole Church in its wide response to the culture. This opportunity may be missed because of the assumption that networks will automatically happen. The intentionality required for this wide spread communication and connecting will most likely take the form of someone being responsible for network organization. Each province needs to explore the idea of funding for this connecting and communicating work. For several years this work has been the responsibility of the provincial coordinator/executive director and was completed with varying degrees of effectiveness. The Episcopal Church tried to establish regional staff offices throughout The Episcopal Church and while this format was not long lived, it did indicate the desire on the part of the Church wide level to have some sort of “regional” coordinator/communicator. For close to fifteen (15) years, the provincial coordinators have been providing this kind of connecting and communicating across the Church. The coordinators worked among themselves in order to build capacity for this connecting and communicating and to provide the support for the prophetic, grassroots networking. It seems wise to delve more deeply into this part of the organization already in place in order to nurture growth in this part of the system.

Until The Episcopal Church is able to undertake a thorough review of the whole system, the recommendation will be to leave the provincial structure in place and to focus on how the provincial system can be supported and encouraged to be the best it can be in fulfilling its role in the larger system of The Episcopal Church.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force encourages those entities, already using the Provincial system to support its ministry and mission, to continue to use the Provincial system as well as seek ways to enhance their work and share ideas and resources throughout the Provincial system.

The Task Force has tried to approach all the work with a positive viewpoint, coming from an attitude of abundance rather than scarcity. All parts of the Church are encouraged to seek what is positive and how the positive aspects can be supported and encouraged rather than focusing on the perceived inadequacies of one part of the system.

Geographical boundaries do not have to inhibit mission. Dioceses, congregations and individuals should seek others who share their passions and work together on that passion. The main role of provinces is to connect and communicate with those people sharing like passions.

Provinces must work on their funding issues. While the numbers on the survey indicate that many do not recognize that funding is an issue at this time; if the Church is prepared to strengthen all parts of the system, funding issues may become more pronounced. This is a collaborative effort involving the member dioceses as well as The Episcopal Church at the Church wide level. As we move toward a more collaborative system, it is too limiting to treat a complex issue such as financial resources in an either/or manner meaning either the dioceses support the provinces or The Episcopal Church supports the provinces. The Task Force encourages the continual dialogue concerning how the Church resources its mission. If the Church is going to be strong, all parts of the system need to be strong; therefore, one part cannot say to another part that they are not important.

The Task Force is recommending that the current process of selecting a nominating committee for the election of a Presiding Bishop be changed so that provinces do not figure into the process as they currently do. This will necessitate a change in Title I Canon 2 Of the Presiding Bishop. The Task Force on Provinces has collaborated with the [Task Force on Review of Presiding Bishop Election and Transition Process](#).

The Task Force recommends that the Presiding Bishop be free to choose his/her own Council of Advice and not be bound by current Rules of the House of Bishops Article 27.

Proposed Resolutions

RESOLUTION A071: PROVINCIAL VITALITY

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that the Provincial Leadership Conference articulate characteristics that would indicate a vital, fruitful provincial system contributing to strengthening the mission of The Episcopal Church and the wider Church. The indicators must take into account the diversity inherent in the provinces and those dioceses they serve, and they must be applicable across The Episcopal Church; and be it further;

Resolved, That the Provincial Leadership Conference report annually to the Executive Council on the progress of this work; and be it further;

Resolved, That each province determine its ways of moving toward vitality based on the articulated indicators, reflecting regularly on the outcomes of any changes/shifts and reporting outcomes to the annual Provincial Leadership Conference gathering.

Explanation

The goal of this resolution is for each province to become the best it can be. The Provincial Leadership Conference is constituted to do the oversight of this work each province must undertake. It also holds the space for accountability of each province.

RESOLUTION A072: PROVINCIAL GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that in the 2018-2021 triennium, dioceses review, consider and align with whichever province best serves their identity and needs, as the Constitution and Canons allow.

Explanation:

Over the years, there are dioceses that identify more readily with a province other than the one in which they geographically find themselves. The Task Force on Provinces recognizes that it may be important as The Episcopal Church commits to reviewing the provincial system, that each diocese review and commit to a particular province. The Constitution and Canons both comment on the option dioceses have of shifting to a different province.

ARTICLE VII

Dioceses may be united into Provinces in such manner, under such conditions, and with such powers, as shall be provided by Canon of the General Convention; provided, however, that no Diocese shall be included in a Province without its own consent.

Title I Canon 9 Sec.3 (b)

By mutual agreement between the Synods of two (2) adjoining Provinces, a Diocese or Area Mission may transfer itself from one of such Provinces to the other, such transfer to be considered complete upon approval thereof by the General Convention. Following such approval, Canon I.9.1 shall be appropriately amended.

RESOLUTION A073: MANDATES TO PROVINCES

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that prior to enacting legislative actions involving provinces, governing bodies, including General Convention and Executive Council, review the action in order to determine if all provinces have the capacity to enact these actions and make adjustments in the legislation to allow for diversity in responses.

Explanation:

Recognizing that provinces vary, sometimes widely, in their capacity to respond to requests/actions given in a general statement or mandate for the whole church, it is important that those requests/mandates be carefully reviewed prior to their issuance in order to ensure success. The province being asked needs to have the ability to respond and if it does not, it will ensure failure. Each province may have the intent of carrying out the requests, but may not have the capacity to do so which leads to frustration for both the province and the body issuing the request. There are a variety of factors determining capacity in each province such as population, financial resources, geographical issues and organizational structures.

RESOLUTION A074: THE PROPHETIC VOICE OF PROVINCES

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that in the 2018-2021 triennium, each province exercise its prophetic vision and voice for The Episcopal Church, in calling forth and nourishing the ministry and mission networks throughout the province; and be it further

Resolved, That the Provincial Leadership Conference help to build the collaborations across the provincial boundaries, and with the ministry offices at The Episcopal Church noting particularly the resources used and additional resources that would benefit the networks, submit this data to Executive Council at the end of each budget year.

Explanation:

The provincial work of connecting and communicating is best exemplified by the functioning of networks – those mission and ministry groups that seek to respond to God’s call in their places. The prophetic work of provinces is to support those functioning networks in keeping God’s dream in front of the people and just as importantly to call networks into being when the need for the network begins to emerge. The province, due to its broader view, is in a unique position to detect the emerging areas that need response from the Church. By nurturing the relationship with both the member dioceses and The Episcopal Church, provinces are able to voice concerns and responses.

RESOLUTION A075: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES FROM PROVINCES

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring that the Standing Commission on Nominations develop a process for ensuring diverse representation on Executive Council including qualified persons from all the provinces in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the election of these qualified people be held at General Convention rather than as part of provincial elections.

Explanation:

The Task Force on Provinces is recommending that the provinces focus their energy on the mission of the Church and relax their focus on the polity of The Episcopal Church. Because of advances in communication, it is easier for the whole church to review qualifications of people willing to serve on Executive Council and who have the skills needed at any particular time. The focus will necessitate determining the skills and abilities needed for a particular time and then seeking people who have those skills and abilities. There is an element of trust being placed in the Standing Commission on Nominations to strive to search for people who relate to all parts of our Church. With their energy devoted to the mission of the Church and to communication and coordination, the provinces will be able more and more to strengthen their part of the whole system.

RESOLUTION A076: AMEND CANON I.1.14(C)

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that Canon I.1.14 (c) of the Canons is hereby amended to read as follows:

(c) From the sites approved by the General Convention, the Joint Committee, with the advice and consent of a majority vote of the following: The Presidents and the Vice-Presidents of both Houses of Convention, ~~the Presidents of the Provinces~~ and the Executive Council, shall determine the site for such General Convention and proceed to make all reasonable and necessary arrangements and commitments for that meeting of the General Convention. The site and date thus selected shall be deemed to have been appointed by the General Convention, as provided in the Constitution.

Explanation:

The Task Force on Provinces is recommending that provinces focus on the mission of the Church and remove themselves from all the canonical responsibilities that may be necessary for the organization but that don't apply to furthering the mission of the Church. The task of approving the site of General Convention does not seem to relate to the mission of the Church.

RESOLUTION A077: AMEND CANON I.7.1 (A)

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that Canon I.7.1 (a) of the Canons is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. In every Province, Diocese, Parish, Mission and Institution connected with this Church, the following standard business methods shall be observed:

(a) All accounts of Provinces shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant, or independent licensed accountant, or such audit committee as shall be authorized by the ~~Provincial Council~~ Province. The Audit Report shall be filed with the ~~Provincial Council~~ *Leadership and the Executive Council* not later than September 1 of each year, covering the preceding calendar year.

Explanation:

Recognizing that Provinces may differ in the names of their governing body, the language is being changed to allow the flexibility in language. The Executive Council has been included in the notification.

RESOLUTION A078: AMEND CANON I.9.2-13

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that Canon I.9.2 of the Canons is hereby amended to read as follows

Sec 2. The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate inter-diocesan collaboration *to further the mission of the Church and* achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts. *General Convention may not mandate work to be completed by the Provinces. However, Provinces may choose to work collaboratively on General convention resolutions;* and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.3 (a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3 (a) When a new Diocese or Area Mission shall be created wholly within any Province, such new Diocese or Area Mission shall be included in such Province. In case a new Diocese or Area Mission shall embrace territory in two (2) or more Provinces, it shall be included in ~~and form part of the Province wherein the greater number of Presbyters and Deacons in such new Diocese or Area Mission shall, at the time of its creation, be canonically resident.~~ *the Province of its choice as allowed by the Constitution and Canons.* Whenever a new Diocese or Area Mission shall be formed of territory not before included in any Province, the General Convention shall designate the Province to which it shall be annexed; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.3 (b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b) By mutual agreement between the ~~Synods~~ of two (2) adjoining Provinces, a Diocese or Area Mission may transfer itself from one of such Provinces to the other, such transfer to be considered

complete upon approval thereof by the General Convention. Following such approval, Canon I.9.1 shall be appropriately amended; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. For the purpose of the Province the ~~Synodical~~ rights and privileges of the several Dioceses within the Province shall be such as from time to time shall be determined by the ~~Synod~~ governing documents and Leadership of the Province; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. ~~There shall be in each Province a Synod consisting of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies, which Houses shall sit and deliberate either separately or together. The Synod shall meet on a regular basis as determined by each Province for the purpose of organizing and carrying out the responsibilities of the Province as provided in the Canons. Provinces must choose a President, who can be of any order, and they shall otherwise organize themselves as they see fit, with by-laws subject to approval by Executive Council. The Executive Council is responsible for ensuring that the by-laws serve the interests of both clerics and laity;~~ and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6. ~~Every Bishop Diocesan of this Church, having jurisdiction within the Province, every Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, and Assistant Bishop, and every Bishop whose episcopal work has been within the Province, but who by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity has resigned, shall have a seat and vote in the House of Bishops of the Province. Each Diocese and Area Mission within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Province by Bishops, Presbyters or Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese or Area Mission, and Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a Church in this province, but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese or Area Mission, in such number as the Province may provide. Each Diocese and Area Mission shall determine the manner in which its members shall be elected;~~ and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7 (a) ~~The President of each Province may be one of the Bishops, Presbyters, Deacons, or Lay Persons of the Province, elected by the Synod. The method of election and term of office shall be determined by the rules of the Synod.~~

~~(b) When the person elected is not a Bishop, a Vice-President shall be elected who shall be a Bishop member of the Province. In this event the Bishop so elected shall serve, ex officio, as President of the House of Bishops of the Synod, and shall represent the Province in all matters requiring the participation of a Bishop. The Province shall have power: (a) to enact Ordinances for its own regulation and government; (b) to deal with all matters within the Province; provided, however, that no Province shall have power to regulate or control the internal policy or affairs of any constituent Diocese; and provided, further, that all actions and proceedings of the Province shall be subject to and in conformity~~

with the provisions of the Constitution and the Canons for the government of this Church; (c) to adopt a budget for the maintenance of any Provincial work undertaken by the Province, such budget to be raised in such manner as the Province may determine; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.9.8 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. ~~Each Diocese and Area Mission within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Deputies by Presbyters or Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese or Area Mission, and Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese or Area Mission, in such number as the Provincial Synod, by Ordinance, may provide. Each Diocese and Area Mission shall determine the manner in which its Deputies shall be elected. The Provinces shall work with the Leadership of The Episcopal Church to nominate individuals to serve the mission needs of the wider church; and be it further~~

Resolved, That Canon I.9.9 is hereby amended to read as follows

Sec. 9. ~~The Provincial Synod shall have power: (a) to enact Ordinances for its own regulation and government; (b) to perform such duties as many be committed to it by the General Convention; (c) to deal with all matters within the Province; provided, however, that no Provincial Synod shall have power to regulate or control the internal policy or affairs of any constituent Diocese; and provided, further, that all actions and proceedings of the Synod shall be subject to and in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and the Canons for the government of this Church; (d) to adopt a budget for the maintenance of any Provincial work undertaken by the Synod, such budget to be raised in such manner as the Synod may determine; (e) to create by Ordinance a provincial Council with power to administer and carry on such work as may be committed to it by the General Convention, or by the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council, or by the Synod of the Province. Each Province shall keep minutes, journals or other records of its meetings, and shall transmit one (1) copy of the records to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, and one (1) copy to The Archives of The Episcopal Church. The Province shall also transmit copies of any unpublished inactive records to the Archives. The President of each Province shall annually submit to the Executive Council a written report on the ministries, programs and other work of the Province, including a description of how funds (if any) appropriated by the General Convention have been used, and shall report on their work to the Executive Council, on the date and in the form specified by the Executive Council; and be it further~~

Resolved, That Canon I.9.10 is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 10. ~~The Synod of a Province may take over from the Executive Council, with its consent, and during its pleasure, the administration of any given work within the Province. If the Province shall provide the funds for such work, the constituent Dioceses then members of, and supporting, such Province shall receive proportional credit therefor upon the quotas assigned to them for the support of the Program of the Church, provided that the total amount of such credits shall not exceed the sum appropriated in the budget of the Executive Council for the maintenance of the work so taken over; ; and be it further~~

Resolved, That Canon I.9.11 is hereby amended as follows:

~~Sec. 11. Within sixty days after each session of the General Convention, the Presidents of the two Houses thereof shall refer to the Provincial Synods, or any of them, such subjects as the General Convention may direct, or as they may deem advisable, for consideration thereof by the Synods, and it shall be the duty of such Synods to consider the subject or subjects so referred to them at the first meeting of the Synod held after the adjournment of the General Convention, and to report their action and judgment in the matter to the Secretary of the House of Bishops and to the Secretary of the House of Deputies at least six months before the date of the meeting of the next General Convention. ; and be it further~~

Resolved, That Canon I.9.12 is hereby amended as follows:

~~Sec. 12. Each Provincial Synod shall keep minutes, journals or other records of its meetings, and shall transmit one copy of the records to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, and one copy to The Archives of The Episcopal Church. The Synod shall also transmit copies of any unpublished inactive records to the Archives. ; and be it further~~

Resolved, That Canon I.9.13 is hereby amended as follows:

~~Sec. 13. The President of each Province shall annually submit to the Executive Council a written report on the ministries, programs and other work of the Province, including a description of how funds appropriated by the General Convention have been used, and shall report on their work to the Executive Council, on the date and in the form specified by the Executive Council~~

Explanation:

The Task Force on Provinces recommends the simplification of the Canons regarding Provinces based on the guiding principles the Task Force established for its work. The Task Force sought to focus the work of the Province on supporting the mission of the Church rather than on maintaining parts of the system focused only on the organization of the system itself. Energy given to maintaining a system is energy taken from supporting the mission or work of the system. The language also enables provinces to organize themselves as they determine is best for their needs, geography and resources. In keeping with the sense of diversity apparent in the provinces at this time, it is not helpful to bind them to a system of “synods” with the assumption that each province is identical to the others. Hopefully, these changes create a more flexible system, able to respond as able to the mission needs of the Church.

RESOLUTION A079: AMEND CANON I.11.3 (C)

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that Canon I.11.3 (c) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(c) In every Missionary Diocese there shall be an annual Convention, composed of the Bishop or Bishops, the other Clergy of the Diocese, and Lay Delegates from the organized Congregations. Such Convention shall elect a Standing Committee, in accordance with the diocesan Canons, which shall have the powers and duties set forth for Standing Committees in Canon I.12 and in other Canons of the General Convention. It shall also elect Clerical and Lay Deputies and alternate Deputies to the General Convention, in accordance with its diocesan Canons, and the provisions of Article I.4 of the Constitution. If the Missionary Diocese is a member of a Province of this Church, it shall also provide for ~~Clerical and Lay Deputies and alternate Deputies to the Synod~~, *representation in the Province* in accordance with the diocesan Canons and the provisions of the Ordinances of the Province.

Explanation:

The changes represent bringing language into consistency with other proposed changes.

RESOLUTION A080: A SEASON OF PROVINCIAL DISCERNMENT

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that during the 2018-2021 triennium, The Episcopal Church commit to a season of discernment focused on identifying and strengthening the work of the provinces in the whole system of The Episcopal Church; including but not limited to: visioning for the kinds of collective aspirations for dioceses within a province as well as between provinces and articulating how these aspirations and efforts support the mission of The Episcopal Church and the wider Church; building the capacity for resource sharing between dioceses within a province as well as across the provinces; articulating the funding issues associated with the collaborative communications and networking and finding ways to support these funding issues (including the use of compensated staff); and be it further;

Resolved, This work be initiated by the provinces, but expanded to include the dioceses and the larger Episcopal Church offices in the work and deliberations; and be it further;

Resolved, The information articulated and developed be collected by the Provincial Leadership Conference and presented with recommendations for any system changes to the 80th General Convention.

Explanation:

From the research of the Task Force on Provinces, it has become clearer that possibilities for collaboration and communication through the provincial system are being missed. There is a need to make sure all parts of a large, complex system are functioning to their potential in order for the entire

system to function optimally. The provincial system is only one part of the larger system of The Episcopal Church and finding the ways to strengthen one part of the system will impact the rest of the system. It is difficult to determine the effects prior to actual changes. It will be necessary to collate all the changes and then to identify how the larger system is affected. The Provincial Leadership Conference is constituted to be able to do this work. Hopefully by committing to an intentional effort of strengthening the provinces for the triennium, opportunities for the entire system will emerge.