

***DRAFT FOR REVIEW***

President's Report to Province II Synod

May 9, 2024

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe  
Bishop of Central New York  
President of Province II

Province II experienced a year of new horizons, advancements in working together, worshipping together, and Walking the Way of Love together.

I would like to first acknowledge the work and ministry of the Province II Officers: Vice President, the Venerable Dr. Walter Baer of Europe; Secretary the Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe of Long Island; Treasurer Lis Jacobs of New York; and Chancellor of the Province & Parliamentarian, Martha L. Barry, Esq. of Central New York. Also I acknowledge the Province II Council: Thomas K. Chu, Esq., New York; the Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson, Western New York; the Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, Newark; Yvonne O'Neal, New York; and the Rev. Johnnie E. Ross, Rochester.

Among the highlights of 2023, Province II continued to strengthen our ties with the Dioceses of Cuba and Puerto Rico, which joined Province II in 2022. Province II continued to share, support, and promote the work of the Convocation in Europe and its work with refugees of Ukraine.

Province II remained committed to inclusivity through appointments to committees and positions, and by ensuring that all meetings are presented in languages other than English. ASL is provided if requested. Province II also engaged in online capabilities to allow access across the province as we encompass seven time zones.

In 2023, Province II finalized the plans for a service of lamentation and repentance for the Slave Trade acknowledging that we are the nexus of the historic slave triangle. The Slave Trade Task Force focused throughout the year on addressing the sin of slavery, noting Province II's unique view of including Europe, the Caribbean, and NY/NJ, the site of one of the largest slave markets in North America. Utilizing the liturgical structure of the Stations of the Cross with laments connecting historic and contemporary issues of slavery, oppression, and violence with Jesus's passion, the Slave Trade Lament and Repentance was presented on

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. It was shared with the entire church as a Lenten program, discipline, and prayer resource.

Province II communications among the dioceses continued to be enhanced via zoom and special connections, such as Bishops retreats and the assistance from our Tech Committee. We recognize the challenges of our Province spread across seven time zones, and our meetings/events reflect that reality so that all are included. Through the Provincial communications, Episcopal Church, Province II, General Convention, and diocesan events were promoted.

Province II experienced notable new developments in 2023.

Province II welcomed new bishops who were consecrated/elected in 2023: Bishop Jeremiah Williamson, Diocese of Albany; Bishop Sally French, Diocese of New Jersey; and Bishop Matt Heyd, Diocese of New York. (The new bishop of Rochester was elected earlier in 2024.)

In compliance with canonical requirements, Province II submitted the necessary information to the Archives of the Episcopal Church. As this was previously an unknown task, Province II promptly responded and filled in the gaps from the past decade.

Our utilization of online technology for scheduling meetings and events works well. Add to that the Province II Facebook Page, website, and newsletter, all continue to work well to share news and important info throughout the thirteen dioceses of Province II.

We have challenges that we are facing together as a Province.

The lack of funding from the Episcopal Church continues to be a struggle as Province II is comprised of thirteen dioceses on two continents and the Caribbean, with tremendous diversity of languages and culture. Added to that, Province II encompasses seven time zones; nonetheless we work to accommodate all. To that end, through the work of PLC and PLC Coordinators, a subcommittee presented resolutions that have been submitted to the General Convention Office to examine and remedy this situation.

We strive to strengthen our programming, missional activities, and support, but funding remains a significant challenge. Further, global tensions, COVID and pandemic, and ongoing issues of justice and inequality add to the challenges.

Our future plans looking to provide a Title IV workshop for our dioceses and staffs, and a 2025 Province-wide prayer service.

We strive to continue to seek ways of supporting and collaborating together.