

Report on Province III of the Episcopal Church to the 231st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

Province III, which includes the thirteen Episcopal dioceses in the Mid-Atlantic region (Bethlehem, Central Pennsylvania, Delaware, Easton, Maryland, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Southern Virginia, Southwestern Virginia, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia), met for its annual Synod on May 5, 2025, in Martinsburg, West Virginia. This year's Synod was attended by The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, and The Very Rev. Kathleen Murray, Clergy Deputy from the Diocese of Virginia.

The Synod opened with Morning Prayer led by Mr. Christopher Hart, Diocese of Pennsylvania, followed by welcomes from Bishop Kevin Brown, Diocese of Delaware, who also presides as President of the Province. The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, presented an update on the reunification of the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania into what will become the *Diocese of Susquehanna*. This marks a historic moment of collaboration and discernment within Province III and throughout the Episcopal Church.

The Synod also heard a comprehensive report from the Executive Council, including discussion of the wider church reorganization, led by Mr. Matthew Taylor, Diocese of Washington, and the Rev. Dr. Nina Salmon, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Table conversations, facilitated by Dr. Pamela Cochran, Province III Coordinator, explored three themes central to the Province's common life: Racial Reconciliation, Creation Care, and Provincial Identity. These discussions reflected a shared desire to strengthen cooperation and communication across diocesan lines.

Following the morning sessions, Treasurer Mr. Jason Kamrath, Diocese of Maryland, presented the 2024 financial report and the 2025 budget, which the Synod voted to receive. The 2025 budget projects total revenues of approximately \$104,000, primarily from diocesan apportionments, and total expenses of \$126,000, with a resulting operating deficit of about \$21,800, largely due to one-time pension adjustments. Program funding continues to prioritize formation, youth, environmental ministries, campus ministry, and anti-racism efforts. The Provincial Council recommended that the 2026 diocesan apportionment remain stable, with continued investment in communication platforms and ministry development across dioceses.

Afternoon ministry updates were offered by:

- **The Rev. Joanne Fisher** (Christian Formation & Youth)
- **Ms. Mathy Milling Downing** (United Thank Offering)
- **Mr. Steven Jones** (Environmental Ministry)
- **The Rev. Dr. Ted Christopher** (Campus Ministry)
- **Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres** (Episcopal Church Women)
- **Dr. Pamela Cochran** (College for Congregational Development)

These reports highlighted continued collaboration across dioceses and the growing energy around environmental stewardship, youth engagement, and leadership development.

The 2025 Province III Synod was a day of fellowship, shared vision, and honest reflection on the challenges and opportunities facing the Episcopal Church in our region. The discussions underscored the importance of connection not only among dioceses but also between lay and ordained leaders working together to proclaim the Gospel through acts of justice, reconciliation, and care for creation.

Province III invites all Episcopalians to learn more about its ministries and ongoing initiatives at www.province3.org

Respectfully submitted by: The Very Rev. Kathleen Murray, Clergy Deputy



Bishops Stevenson and Harris attending the Racial Reconciliation conversation