

## Report on Province III of the Episcopal Church to the 232nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

Province III, which includes the twelve Episcopal dioceses in the Mid-Atlantic region (Delaware, Easton, Maryland, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Southern Virginia, Southwestern Virginia, Susquehanna, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia), met for its annual Synod on May 3–4, 2026, in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Please note that since the 2025 Synod, the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania have merged to form the Diocese of the Susquehanna.

This year's Synod was attended by the following deputies from the Diocese of Virginia: The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas, The Rev. David Curtis, Dr. Christine Cameron, and Ms. Helen Penrod. The Rev. Mary Staley served as alternate, and Mr. David Penrod also attended.

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Brown, Bishop of Delaware and President of the Province, opened with a welcome and an update on changes to the Executive Committee, including a call for a new Treasurer and the introduction of a new Secretary. The Synod expressed gratitude to outgoing Treasurer Jason Kamrath, Diocese of Maryland, for his service.

Dr. Pamela Cochran, Province III Coordinator, described the past year as a "building period" for the Province, pointing to continued engagement with FORMA and youth participation in the Episcopal Youth Event.

The Episcopal Church Women's report, shared in writing by Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres, Diocese of Southern Virginia, highlighted the ECW's advocacy around gender-based violence, continuing education for its members, scholarship and grant support for seminarians and graduate students, and its annual meeting and awards.

Christian Formation and Youth Ministry reported an active ten-member leadership team, strong youth participation in FORMA and related programming — including work on countering Christian nationalism — and planning underway for the 2027 Provincial Youth Event.

The Rev. Kristen Krantz, Diocese of Maryland, reported on the College for Congregational Development, which, now operating across eleven sites nationally since its 2009 launch, continues to train lay and ordained leaders in congregational systems, conflict, and culture through a two-year formation program.

Glenna Huber, Diocese of Washington, reported that Creation Care saw growing momentum around the Province's Eco-Region model, through which neighboring dioceses partner on shared

environmental challenges, including continued water-focused work in the Chesapeake and a newer Appalachian partnership.

The Rev. David Waccaster, Diocese of Washington, reflected on the Province's Racial Reconciliation ministry, noting how public conversation about race has evolved over the past five years and reaffirming the Province's commitment to relationship-building and sustained dialogue, including engagement with the Sacred Ground curriculum.

Ms. Mathy Milling Downing, Diocese of Washington, reported for the United Thank Offering, noting continued strong grantmaking — 40–50 requests this cycle focused on peacebuilding and historically marginalized communities — while noting new constraints on international funding due to sanctions review and a decline in overall giving that has required adjusting award sizes to fund more grants.

Mr. Matthew Taylor, Diocese of Washington, and the Rev. Dr. Nina Salmon, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, reported on Executive Council's ongoing governance work, including asset protection amid organizational realignment, relocation of the Church's archives, preparations for General Convention 83 in Pittsburgh, and a more streamlined scholarship application process.

Ethan Lowery, Diocese of Virginia, reported that Campus Ministries comprise a diverse landscape of 26 ministries across the Province — a mix of standalone, diocesan-yoked, and ecumenical partnerships — with ongoing challenges around hiring, leadership pipelines, and turnover, offset by new efforts to stay connected through shared digital platforms and regular gatherings.

The Rev. Dr. Michael DeLashment, keynote speaker, led an extended session on Artificial Intelligence and the Church, exploring how new technologies — like those before them — reveal and conceal different dimensions of ministry. Through case studies in preaching, pastoral care, and administration, the session invited the Synod to practice ongoing discernment about how emerging tools shape community life and pastoral presence.

The 2026 Province III Synod brought together leaders from across the Mid-Atlantic for a day marked by candor, curiosity, and a genuine wrestling with what faithful ministry looks like in a changing Church. Conversations ranged from the steady, patient work of racial reconciliation and creation care to a searching new conversation about artificial intelligence and its place in preaching, pastoral care, and administration — a reminder that discernment, not certainty, is the Province's ongoing task. Throughout, the Synod's strength remained its people: dioceses, lay leaders, and clergy choosing to do this work together, in relationship, for the sake of the Gospel.

Province III invites all Episcopalians to learn more about its ministries and ongoing initiatives at [www.province3.org](http://www.province3.org).

Respectfully submitted by Christine Cameron, Lay Delegate