

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PROVINCE IV SYNOD

*Collaboration, Vitality and
Shared Ministry*

DIRECTIVES FROM GC 2015

JUNE 9, 2017

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Panel Members:

- Mrs. Angela Daniel (Task Force – Provinces)
- The Rev. Bob Sessum (Province IV Guru)
- The Rt. Rev. Don Johnson (Task Force -
Episcopacy)
- The Rev. Sharon Alexander (Structure,
Governance, Constitution, Canons; Task
Force – Episcopacy)
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- The world is changing rapidly
- The US is changing rapidly
- The Church is changing rapidly
- Change produces stress, uncertainty, fear, anxiety, apathy (hopelessness)
- People respond differently; change patterns of behavior



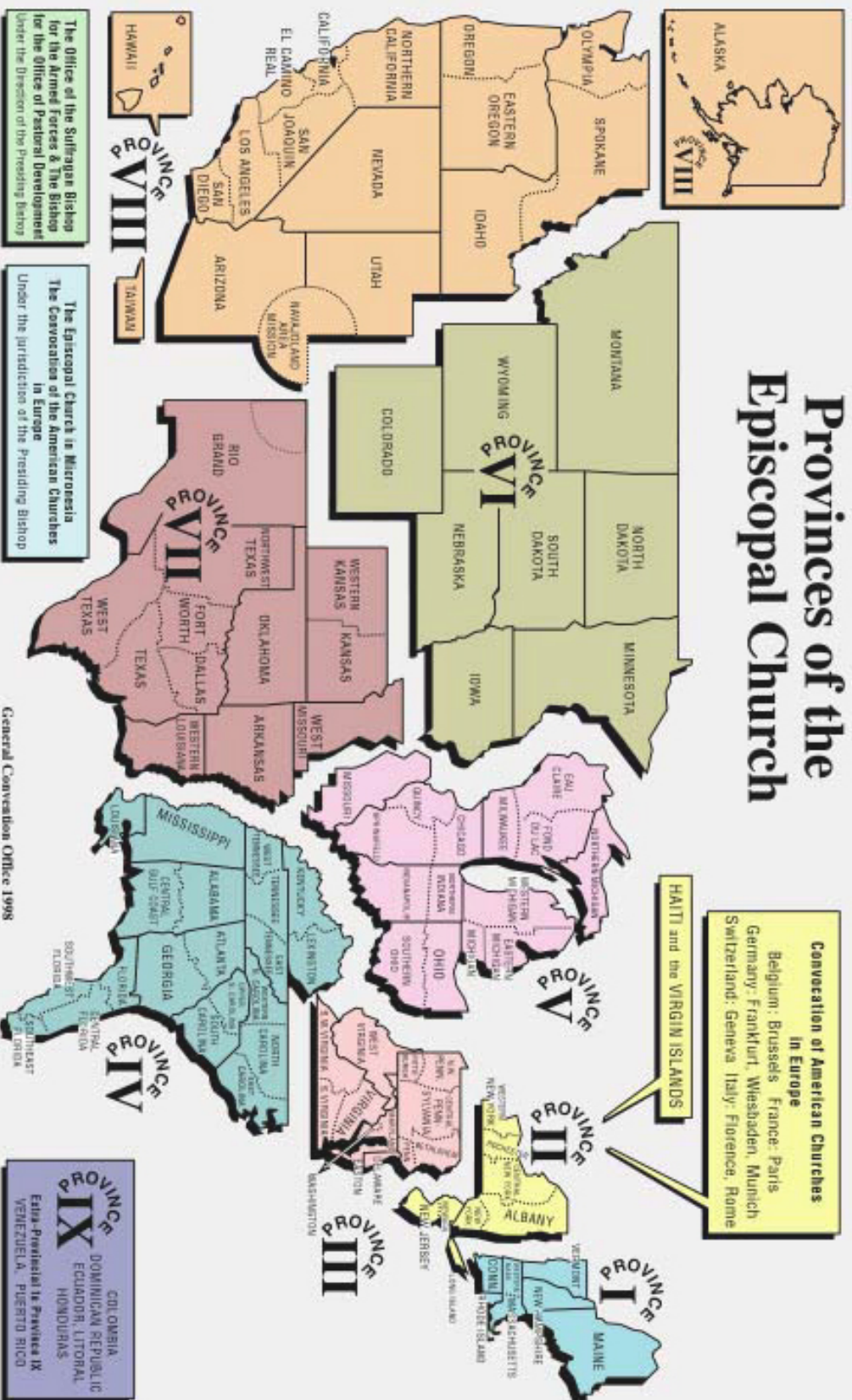
- 99 Domestic Dioceses, 10 Non-US Dioceses, 1 Convocation
- 9 “Domestic” Provinces plus Province IX
- 6,510 congregations; 1,779,335 members; 579,780 ASA; median ASA is 58 (Domestic Dioceses 2015)
 - Approximately 18,000 members per diocese
 - Compare Catholic Church: 197 US dioceses; approx. 80 million members = 406,000 per diocese

- Approximately 1/3 of Domestic Dioceses have smaller membership and/or ASA than St. Martin's in Houston
- 20% decrease in membership and 25% decrease in ASA over the past 10 years
 - Province IV has strongest numbers but still losing members and ASA



Episcopal Church Provinces

Provinces of the Episcopal Church





- **Viability** – ability to maintain operations/existence
- **Vitality** – ability to grow; maintain and increase a meaningful or purposeful existence
- **Mission** – what business you are in (now and future)
- **Purpose** – how does your organization impact the lives of others



- **Resources** – what we need to pursue our mission and purpose
- **Capacity** – ability to identify and use resources effectively and efficiently; there can be significant structural barriers to maximizing capacity
- **Structure** – not your org chart; systems that facilitate or hinder flows of communication, use of resources



- **Change** – can be positive, neutral, negative
- **Transformation** – (theological) change in a positive direction: moving toward Jesus, toward the Holy
- **Our challenge** – to be agents of transformation by increasing our capacity to use resources to lift up viable and vital ministries

**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT
THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE**





General Convention 2015 – re-imagining TEC
Consistent themes in resolutions: collaboration,
vitality, shared ministry

Several Interim Bodies reviewing these issues

- Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
- Task Force on the Episcopacy
- Task Force to Study Provinces
- Others



Resolutions (see handouts):

- C031 – Request Study of Number & Size of Dioceses (Structure, Governance, Constitution, Canons)
- D004 – Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy (Task Force on the Episcopacy)
- D011 – Eliminate Provinces (Task Force to Study Provinces)
- C027 – Amend Canon 1.9 [Of Provinces] (Structure, Governance, Constitution, Canons)



CANON I.9.2

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.



Task Force to Study Provinces Survey

- People now involved in provincial system would grieve the elimination
- Concern for decrease in voice from smaller congregations/dioceses if we eliminate
- Decrease in voice of women and laity
- Lose mutual support in dioceses that constitute a province



- Affect collaborative work that happens between dioceses in a province
- Communication: need for better, if eliminated, would decrease
- Ways of connecting with church-wide groups would be adversely affected
- Prep for GC deputies would be affected adversely if provinces eliminated
- Concern with consolidation of power



- Eliminating provinces would set up a buzz saw to those who are involved
- Many have no idea what province does
- Decrease in networks
- Funding was not a big issue or people didn't know
- People want connections



- If province structure was eliminated it would adversely affect the work in Province IX on its sustainability
- Geographies and boundaries



EXAMPLES - PROVINCE IV RESOURCES

- Youth Ministry – coordinator, events
- Networks
 - Altar Guild
 - Anti-Racism
 - Environmental Ministries
 - HIV/AIDS Ministries
 - Campus Ministry
- Emergency Assistance
 - Louisiana – Katrina



- New Ministry Grants
- Transition Officers
- Communicators
- Province IV Bishops
- ECW/UTO
- Preparation for General Convention
- Potential for many other networks and collaborations



Episcopal Church Research – Studying Your Congregation and Community

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/research/study-
your-congregation-and-community](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/research/study-your-congregation-and-community)

General Convention Website – Interim Bodies

<http://www.generalconvention.org/>



*Living with the Living Dead: The Wisdom
of the Zombie Apocalypse by Greg Garrett
(Oxford University Press, 2017)*