

MINUTES

103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta Atlanta, Georgia, November 6 and 7, 2009

The 103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met in Child Hall in the Cathedral of Saint Philip the Deacon, Atlanta, Georgia on November 6th and 7th, 2009. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, the Ninth Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Assistant Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, was present. The Mid-Atlanta Convocation, the Very Rev. Robert Wright, Dean, was the host.

FIRST DAY

Friday, November 6th, 2009

Registration of Clergy Members and Lay Delegates began at 8:30 a.m.

Call to order, quorum call and organization for business

The Presiding Officer, The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, called the Council to order at 9:34 a.m. The Secretary, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, announced there was a quorum present based on the registrations. He announced that two parishes were not in compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 (Section 5) .The Council was organized for business.

Change of status of three congregations

The Rev. Daniel Matthews, Jr., Chair of the Diocesan New Starts Committee, presented a petition from the Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta, to be recognized as a worshipping community with one Lay Delegate to this Council and moved the petition be approved. The motion was seconded.

Motion adopted

Lay Delegate recognized and seated

The Rev. Daniel Matthews, Jr., Chair of the Diocesan New Starts Committee, presented a petition from the Church of Christ the King, Lilburn, to be admitted into union with the Council of the Diocese as a Parish, stated that the congregation met all requirements of Diocesan Canon 30, and moved the petition be approved. The motion was seconded.

Motion adopted

The Church of Christ the King admitted as a Parish

Lay Delegates recognized and seated

The Bishop recognized the Rev. John Ray, Vicar of Christ the King, and the Rev. Robert Book, Priest in Charge, Church of the Common Ground. Each addressed the Council.

The Bishop announced that the administrative status of St. James', Cedartown, had been changed from Aided Parish to Parish because the Parish no longer was receiving financial assistance from the Diocesan Ministry and Mission Budget.

Minutes of preceding Annual Council

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of the preceding 102nd Annual Council as published on the Diocesan web site and dispensed with the reading of them. The Bishop announced that printed copies could be obtained from the Secretary.

Agenda adopted

The Council unanimously adopted the agenda as printed and distributed.

The Bishop instructed the persons at each table to take two minutes to prepare one written question per table to be submitted to the Presiding Bishop and Primate, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Introductions and greetings

The Very Rev. Robert Wright, Dean of host Mid-Atlanta Convocation and the Very Rev. Samuel Candler, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip the Deacon, each welcomed the clergy and lay persons to the Council.

Mrs. Janet Patterson Chair of Annual Council Committee, welcomed the clergy and lay persons to the Council and thanked the Vergers of the Diocese for their help at this Council.

The Bishop welcomed those persons who are part of Annual Council for the first time.

Presiding Bishop's Question Time

The Bishop introduced the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who responded at length to the questions submitted by the Clergy Members and Lay Delegates.

Council administrative instructions

The Chair of Dispatch of Business, the Rev. Hazel Glover, instructed the Council on: submission of resolutions and amendments to motions and resolutions; addressing the Council; no new resolution may be introduced after recess of first day of Council except by permission of Council; and reports of Diocese boards, committees and commissions are posted on the Diocesan web site, and that persons desiring printed copies should be request them from the Secretary.

Introduction of Resolutions

The Bishop announced that the texts of pre-filed resolutions are in the pre-Council mailing or in the Council packets and have been given tracking numbers by the Secretary.

The Secretary moved Resolutions C09-1 through C09-3 and R09-1 through R09-9 for action by the Council. No other resolutions were introduced.

Elections

The Bishop appointed Mr. Karl Sachsenmaier as Chief Teller. Vergers from parishes of the Diocese served as Assistant Tellers. The Dean of Mid-Atlanta Convocation, the Very Rev. Robert Wright led the Council in prayer.

Uncontested elections

The Council unanimously elected these nominees who were without opposition:

Governor, Appleton Family Ministries: Ms. Elizabeth Dunn (nominated at Council); The Rev. Joseph Shippen II, St. James', Macon

Lay Member, Ecclesiastical Trial Court: Thomas W. Duncanson, St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta

Clerical Member, Ecclesiastical Trial Court: Ruth N. Tate, St. Mary's, Montezuma

First ballot taken

A ballot was taken for the following offices from among the persons shown. Unless otherwise noted, each had been nominated before the Council convened.

Lay Member, Standing Committee: Gene Caudle, St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta; Frank L. Derrickson, Holy Trinity, Decatur; Tim Raasch, St. James', Marietta; Robert H. Rush, St. Paul's, Macon; Angela Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Atlanta.

Priest Member, Standing Committee: Martin Bagay, All Saints', Warner Robins; Timothy Graham, Good Shepherd, Covington; Richard Martindale, Trinity, Columbus.

Lay Trustee, University of the South: John Ford, St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta; William D. Harrison, St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta; Michael Webb, St. Paul's, Macon

Governor, Mikell Camp and Conference Center (each nominated at Council): The Rev. Jeffery Jackson, St. Nicholas', Hamilton; Mr. Gary Cobb, St. Andrew's, Hartwell; Ms. Christi Hughes, Emmanuel, Athens.

The tellers retired to count the ballots.

The Bishop introduced new Clergy Members of Council

Matthew W. Greathouse, St. Paul's, Newnan, from Tennessee; Harriette J. Simmons, Christ Church, Macon, from Georgia; Michael R. Sullivan, Holy Innocents', Atlanta, from Southwest Virginia; C. Wallace Marsh IV, St. James; Marietta, from Georgia; Zebon A. (Chip) Davis III, St. Benedict's, Smyrna, from Mississippi; S. Chadwick Vaughn, St. Francis', Macon, from Texas; Andrew D. Downs, St. Paul's, Macon, from Eastern Michigan; Rebekah Hatch, from Maryland; Katherine Elberfeld, from Virginia.

The Bishop announced changes of clergy since last Council

Retirements; Deacons: Virginia (Swiss) Britt, Christ Church, Kennesaw; Archdeacon Charles Gearing, St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta; Archdeacon John Titus, St. Michael and All Angels, Stone Mountain; Jackie Watts, Holy Innocents', Atlanta
Presbyters: Dorothy Brown, St. Matthias', Toccoa; Ray Gotko, St. James', Marietta; John Porter, Holy Innocents', Atlanta

Death: Gerhard (Gerry) Linz

Ordinations: Presbyters; Grady J. (Buddy) Crawford Jr., Cathedral, Atlanta; Charles L. Fischer III, Diocese of Washington; Adam S. Greene, Diocese of Texas; Sharon L. Hiers, St. Bartholomew's and Emory Episcopal Center, Atlanta; B. Harvey Hill, St. James; Cedartown; R. Justice Schunior, Diocese of Virginia, Robert Wetherington, Diocese of Mississippi; Mary Wetzell, Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville

Deacons "transitional": Elizabeth L. Schellingerhoudt, James Pappas

New Diocesan Director of Finance and Administration

The Bishop introduced the new Director, Bonnie Burgess

Results of first ballot

The Bishop announced the results of the first ballot and the election showb.

Governor, Mikell Camp and Conference Center: Elected, The Rev. Jeffrey Jackson and Ms. Christi Hughes

No nominee for the other offices received a majority of votes cast.

Second ballot taken

A ballot was taken for election from between the persons shown

Lay Member, Standing Committee: Frank Derrickson and Angela Williamson

Priest Member, Standing Committee: Timothy Graham and Richard Martindale

Lay Trustee, University of the South: John Ford and William Harrison

Committee on Memorials and Courtesy

The Bishop appointed to this committee Priests, John Bolton, Patricia Grace, Joseph Shippen and Laity, Lee Lomax, Timothy Lytle, Cherry Searcy

The Bishop recognized major anniversaries of parishes' foundation

Trinity, Columbus, 175 years	St. Paul's, Macon, 140 years
St. Francis', Macon, 50 years	St. Mary's, Montezuma, 50 years
St. Martin's School, 50 years	St. Clare's, Blairsville, 25 years

The Bishop recognized major anniversaries of priests' ordinations

Twenty five years: Eddie Ard, Albert Daviou, Charles Fulghum, Geoffrey M. St.J. Hoare, Michael Owens, Barbara B. Taylor, W. McCord Thigpen

Forty years: Eugene Britton, Donn Brown, Crayton Dudley, Lloyd Wells

Fifty years: Frank K. Allan, John Sanders, Leroy Soper

The Council was in recess from 12:04 p.m. to 1:03 p.m.

Results of second ballot

The Bishop announced the results of the second ballot and the elections as shown.

Lay Member, Standing Committee: Angela Williamson

Priest Member, Standing Committee: Timothy Graham

Lay Trustee, University of the South: John Ford

This completed all elections.

A video, "Around One Table," was shown.

The Bishop addressed the Council

A copy of the address is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Diocesan Review Committee members' terms extended to 2011

The Bishop recommended and the Council confirmed the extension of the terms of the present Diocesan Review Committee to 2011 because a complete revision of General Convention Canon Title IV-Clergy Discipline-becomes effective in that year. The continuing members are: *Clergy:* Ruth Cummings, Mary Johnson, and Benno Pattison; *Laity:* Nedra Wick and Ruth Heppler.

Election of Diocesan Officers

The Bishop nominated and the Council unanimously elected these Officers of the Diocese:

Chancellor, Richard Perry, Esq.

Vice Chancellor, Thomas Christopher, Esq.

Secretary, The Rev. Herschel Atkinson

Assistant Secretary, The Rev. Timothy Graham

Reports

Canon 20 Review Committee: The Rev. Douglas Daily, Chair, reported on the committee's work, noting that progress has been made by parishes' conformance to the canonical requirements for financial support of the mission and ministry of the diocese.

Finance Committee: Mr. Stephen Burnett, Chair, and Mr. Gary Pannell, Treasurer, reported on the financial status of the diocese, referencing the previously mailed financial balance sheets. They reported the diocese again received a clean audit. They referred to the previously mailed narrative 2010 Mission and Ministry Budget that will be considered by Council for submission to the Diocesan Executive Board.

Footprints of Faith-Msalato Theological College Endowment: The Rev. Sandra McCann reported on the endowment fund's progress which will be used to pay faculty and students at the college. The Rev. Charles Roper addressed the Council and stated he has written a book of poetry, and the proceeds from its sale will go to the endowment. The endowment fund will be managed on behalf of Msalato Theological College by the endowment funds of the Diocese of Atlanta. Mr. Mal Underwood, Chair of Stewardship Commission, will oversee this endeavor.

Planned Giving Program: Archdeacon Charles Gearing reported on this program. He announced his retirement and the appointment of Ms. Amy Amason, St. Stephen's, Milledgeville, as the consultant for the diocesan planned giving program

Trustee, University of the South: Dr. John Ford, Trustee, reported the status and progress of the University of the South.

Nativity School, Holy Cross, Decatur: Deacon Edith Woodling reported on St. Lawrence Academy, the Nativity School (a middle school which will not be tuition driven). The Very Rev. Robert Wright also spoke to the Council about this ministry.

Diocese of Atlanta Young Adults: Ms. Lauren Woody, DAYA Ministry Coordinator, presented a video about DAYA, noting that DAYA was formed about three years ago.

Appleton Family Ministries: Anna Hasselbauer, Chair of the Board of Directors, reported on these ministries and included a brief history of Appleton.

Episcopal Charities Foundation: Ms. Ginny Heckel, Chair, reported. The annual report of ECF is attached to and part of these minutes.

Announcements and adjournment

The Bishop referred the previously moved resolutions to these legislative committees

C09-1, Election of a Bishop Diocesan or a Bishop Coadjutor and C09-2, Election of a Bishop Suffragan and C09-3, Rules of Order for Election of a Bishop to a joint meeting of Constitution and Canons and Ministry.

R09-1, Creation Commission, to Stewardship

R09-2, Energy Assessments, to Stewardship

R09-3, Affirming the Tithe as the Minimum Standard, to Stewardship

R09-4, Adoption Sunday, to Liturgy

R09-5, Parish Representatives for Episcopal Charities Foundation, to Community Ministries

R09-6, Oppose Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to Global Mission

R09-7, Training and Advocacy against Domestic Violence, to Community Ministries

R09-8, Young Adult Ministries, to Youth and Young Adults

R09-9, Companion Diocese Relationship (Rio de Janeiro), to Global Mission

Proposed 2010 Diocesan Mission and Ministry Budget, to Finance

Following administrative announcements, the Bishop adjourned the Council at 3:45 p.m. until 9:00 a.m., November 7th, 2009.

The several legislative committees met beginning at 4:00 p.m. to consider resolutions referred to them.

The Council and visitors gathered in the Cathedral at 5:30 p.m. for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori celebrated and preached.

SECOND DAY
November 7th, 2009

The Bishop reconvened the Council at 9:07a.m.

The Rev. Isaias Rodriguez led the Council in prayer.

Reports resumed

Millennium Development Goals: Deacon Katherine Armentrout spoke about the MDG. A video prepared at Holy Family, Jasper, on MDG was shown.

Bishop Shalita: The Rt. Rev. Ernest Shalita, retired Bishop of Muhabura, Uganda, addressed the Council.

Episcopal Relief and Development: Dr. Robert Radtke, President of ERD, addressed the Council on ERD work and accomplishments.

Legislative committee reports

The Rev. Hazel Glover, Chair of Dispatch of Business, scheduled legislative committee reports of action as shown. All resolutions presented had been moved for action by the Rev. Herschel Atkinson, Secretary of Council, the preceding day, November 6.

Constitution and Canons: Richard Perry Esq., Chair, reported the committee recommends adoption of Resolutions C09-1, C09-2 and C09-3 without amendment.

C09-1 Election of a Bishop

Resolved, that Diocesan Canon 43 - *Of the Election of a Bishop* be revised *in toto* to read as follows:

Canon 43 - Of the Election of a Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor

Section 1. When the office of the Bishop Diocesan becomes vacant or when the Bishop Diocesan announces an intent to resign or calls for a Bishop Coadjutor, the Standing Committee will announce, within the ensuing sixty (60) days, a time for Diocesan Council to convene for an election.

Section 2.

(a). The Standing Committee will initiate the canonical process to obtain the required consents to hold the election.

(b). The Standing Committee will act as an oversight committee and establish a process and time line for the election.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Standing Committee will send notice of the convening of the Council session to (i) all Parish Vestries, (ii) all Clergy Members entitled to vote at such session and (iii) all Lay Delegates to Council entitled to vote at such session and their Alternates at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the session.

Section 4. A Committee for Nominations will be formed consisting of one clerical and one lay representative elected from each Convocation and one person elected by the Standing Committee from among its members. The Standing Committee will appoint a Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members of the Committee for Nominations.

Section 5. The Committee for Nominations, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Executive Board, will produce a profile of the Diocese. The Committee for Nominations will seek out and receive names of persons for consideration of election. The Committee for Nominations will report to the Standing Committee the names of not fewer than three (3) persons who (i) have consented to stand as proposed nominees for

election, (ii) have passed background checks and (iii) meet the criteria developed in the profile.

Section 6. The Standing Committee will send data about each proposed nominee to all (i) Clergy Members and (ii) Lay Delegates to Council entitled to vote in the election and their Alternates at least forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the session for an election. Not later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the session for an election other persons may become proposed nominees upon nomination of five (5) Clergy Members of Council and ten (10) Lay Delegates to Council representing in total at least three (3) Parishes of the Diocese. The names of those so nominated shall be sent to the Committee for Nominations, which will report to the Standing Committee the names of those persons who (i) have consented to stand for nomination and (ii) have passed the background check. All proposed nominees will be invited for interviews with the Clergy Members and Lay Delegates to Council.

Section 7. The Standing Committee will send the Rules of Order for Election of a Bishop to all (i) Clergy Members and (ii) Lay Delegates to Council entitled to vote in the election and their Alternates at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the session for election.

Section 8. At the time for balloting, the Secretary of the Council will call for a vote by orders. Votes will be cast as directed by the Rules of Order and by the Chief Teller and will be counted separately and reported. The election will require a majority of votes cast in each order on a concurrent ballot.

**Motion carried
Resolution C09-1 adopted**

C09-2 Election of a Bishop Suffragan

The Vy. Rev. Samuel Candler, Cathedral, moved to amend both subsection (iii) in Section 5.3 and subsection (iii) in Section 6.3 of Resolution C09-2 to read as follows (iii) *whose qualifications* have been deemed by the Bishop Diocesan to meet the role and duties described in the Consent

**Motion carried
Amendment adopted**

The Council voted on the resolution as amended.

**Motion carried
Resolution C09-2a adopted with amendment**

Final text of Resolution C09-2a reads as follows.

C09-2a

Resolved, that a new Diocesan Canon 46 - *Of the Election of a Bishop Suffragan* be adopted to read as follows:

Section 1. When the Bishop Diocesan calls for a Bishop Suffragan, the Bishop Diocesan will submit a Consent with a description of the role and the duties of the Bishop Suffragan to the Diocesan Council. The Standing Committee will announce, within the ensuing sixty (60) days, a time for Council to convene for an election.

Section 2.

(a).The Standing Committee will initiate the canonical process to obtain the required consents to hold the election.

(b). The Standing Committee will act as an oversight committee and establish a process and time line for the election.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Standing Committee will send notice of the convening of the Council session to (i) all Parish Vestries, (ii) all Clergy Members entitled to vote at such session and (iii) all Lay Delegates to Council entitled to vote at such session and their Alternates at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the session.

Section 4. A Committee for Nominations will be formed consisting of one clerical and one lay representative elected from each Convocation and one person elected by the Standing Committee from among its members. The Standing Committee will appoint a Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members of the Committee for Nominations.

Section 5. The Committee for Nominations will seek out and receive names of persons for consideration of election. The Committee for Nominations will report to the Standing Committee the names of not fewer than three (3) persons who (i) have consented to stand as proposed nominees for election, (ii) have passed background checks and (iii) *whose qualifications* have been deemed by the Bishop Diocesan to meet the role and duties described in the Consent.

Section 6. The Standing Committee will send data about each proposed nominee to all (i) Clergy Members and (ii) Lay Delegates to Council entitled to vote in the election and their Alternates at least forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the session for an election. Not later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the session for an election other persons may become proposed nominees upon nomination of five (5) Clergy Members of Council and ten (10) Lay Delegates to Council representing in total at least three (3) Parishes of the Diocese. The names of those so nominated shall be sent to the Committee for Nominations, which will report to the Standing Committee the names of those persons who (i) have consented to stand for nomination and (ii) have passed the background checks and (iii) *whose qualifications* have been deemed by the Bishop Diocesan to meet the role and duties described in the Consent. All proposed nominees will be invited for interviews with Clergy Members and Lay Delegates of Council.

Section 7. The Standing Committee will send the Rules of Order for Election of a Bishop to all (i) Clergy Members and (ii) Lay Delegates to Council entitled to vote in the election and their Alternates at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the session for election.

Section 8. At the time for balloting, the Secretary of the Council will call for a vote by orders. Votes will be cast as directed by the Rules of Order and by the Chief Teller and will be counted separately and reported. The election will require a majority of votes cast in each order on a concurrent ballot.

C09-3 Rules of Order for Election of a Bishop

Resolved, that the Rules of Order for Election of a Bishop be revised to read as follows:

RULE I

Only Clerical Members of Council and Lay Delegates to Council, as defined by Article 2 of the Constitution, may cast a ballot, make any motion, or raise any point of order. No absentee ballots are in order.

RULE II

Other persons may be authorized all privileges of Council, except vote, as set forth in Diocesan Canon.

RULE III

The Presiding Officer of the Council is the Diocesan Bishop. In the event the Bishop is absent or unable to preside, the Standing Committee selects a clerical Member of Council to preside until Council elects a Presiding Officer *pro tempore*.

RULE IV

The Presiding Officer calls the Council to order. The Presiding Officer appoints a Chief Teller who selects sufficient Assistant Tellers. The then serving Secretary of the Council and the Chancellor of the Diocese serve in their respective offices.

RULE V

The Secretary determines and announces that a constitutional quorum in both orders is present.

RULE VI

The Presiding Officer presents the agenda prepared by the Standing Committee to the Council for approval.

RULE VII

The Standing Committee places in nomination the names of all persons whose names were submitted by the Committee for Nominations. No nominations from the floor are in order.

RULE VIII

Seconding speeches for each nominee are limited to two three-minute speeches.

RULE IX

Section 1. The Secretary calls for a ballot by orders. The Chief Teller instructs the Council how ballots are cast and collected. The Tellers collect and count the ballots by orders. The Chief Teller reports the results of the balloting to the Presiding Officer, who announces the results.

Section 2. The Presiding Officer declares an election when a nominee has received a majority of the ballots cast in each order on the same ballot.

Section 3. An appropriate period of silence will be allowed for prayerful reflection prior to each ballot.

Section 4. . At any time in the balloting process, a nominee may withdraw his or her name from consideration on subsequent ballots.

RULE X

When there is an election the Standing Committee notifies the Bishop-elect and the other nominees of the results of the election.

RULE XI

The Secretary provides Council with the canonical Testimonials of election. The Presiding Officer directs Council to remain in session until a majority of each order of those eligible to vote has signed the canonical Testimonials

RULE XII

Section 1. Except as provided in these Rules, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, governs parliamentary procedure. The Chancellor serves as Parliamentarian.

Section 2. Council may suspend or amend any of the Rules by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote.

**Motion carried
Resolution C09-3 adopted**

Stewardship: The Rev. Jamie Stutler reported that the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09a with committee amendment to read as follows:

R09-1a Commission on the Creation

Resolved, that the 103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta approves the formation of a Standing Commission on ~~the Creation~~ *Environmental Stewardship* no later than the 104th Annual Council meeting. The Commission shall consist of 12 to 15 individuals, appointed by the Bishop and representative of the whole diocese. At least one-third of the commission shall be presbyters or deacons and at least one-third lay persons.

Submitted by

**Motion carried
Resolution R09-1a adopted with amendment**

The Rev. Jamie Stutler reported that the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09-2 without amendment.

R09-2 Energy Assessments

Resolved, that the 103rd Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta urges every parish and diocesan mission to undertake an energy assessment of its buildings by the end of 2010, and be it further

Resolved, that in order to be good stewards of its resources as well as the resources of the earth, the parish or mission takes all prudent steps to correct any deficiencies that are discovered.

**Motion carried
Resolution R09-2 adopted**

The Rev. Jamie Stutler, Chair reported that the committee recommends that Resolution R09-3 be defeated.

R09-3 Affirming the Tithe as the Minimum Standard of Giving

Resolved, That the 103rd Council of the Diocese of Atlanta affirm the tithe as the minimum standard of Christian giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of Annual Council is requested to make provisions for the delegates to Council conveniently to indicate that they either are currently tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years, by signing their name and clearly printing their name and parish, or, if they feel it inappropriate to make such a private matter public, signing and clearly printing the word “Anonymous” and giving their parish and city of residence; and be it further

Resolved, That the record of names and “Anonymous” signings be published in the Council Journal and in such other publications as the Bishop may designate.

The Council debated the resolution at length.

The Bishop ruled without objection that the Council vote on the recommendation of the legislative committee and not on the main motion, stating that approval of the committee recommendation would defeat the resolution

Committee recommendation carried

Resolution R09-3 defeated

Liturgy: The Rev. William Combs, Chair, reported that the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09-4 with committee amendment to read as follows:

R09-4a Adoption Sunday

Resolved, this 103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta ~~recommends that each parish and worshipping community designate a Sunday in~~ ~~designates the third Sunday of~~ November of each year as Adoption Sunday in participation with National Adoption Day; and be it further

Resolved, that each *parish and worshipping community* of this Diocese use Adoption Sunday to emphasize the importance of adopting children by qualified persons; and be it further

Resolved, that both clergy and lay leaders of *parishes and worshipping communities* encourage adoption among their membership; and be it further

Resolved, that members of this Diocese urge legislators *to enact legislation* and social service agencies ~~to enact legislation and~~ *to improve policies* that enable timely and appropriate adoption of children in need.

Motion carried

Resolution R09-4a adopted with amendment

Community Ministries: The Rev. Canon Debbie Shew reported that the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09-5 without amendment.

R09-5 Parish Representatives for Episcopal Charities Foundation

Resolved, Council encourages all congregations within the diocese to appoint an individual to serve as the Parish Representative for the Episcopal Charities Foundation; such individual will be the communications conduit between ECF and the parish.

Motion carried

Resolution R09-5 adopted

Global Mission: Mr. Richard Hall, Chair, reported that the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R 096a-with committee amendment read as follows:

R09-6a Oppose Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Resolved, that the 103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta declare its intention to oppose and prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in *the Diocese of Atlanta*; and be it further

~~*Resolved*, that each worshipping community of this Diocese bring before its people a witness to sexual trafficking in Atlanta that the Bishop of Atlanta appoint a Diocesan Task Force to recommend actions to stop the scourge of the sexual trafficking of children, and seek cooperation with other programs and bodies working on this urgent challenge in our communities; and be it further~~

Resolved, that each *parish and worshipping community* of this Diocese educate its people regarding sexual trafficking in the Diocese of Atlanta, and be it further

Resolved, that each *parish and worshipping community* of this Diocese uphold in prayer the Atlanta Urban Intern Program of the Diocese of Atlanta, whose interns work with children in the immediate vicinity of trafficking in ~~this city~~ *metro Atlanta*.

The Rev. Larry Williams moved to amend the first Resolve by striking the words “Diocese of Atlanta” and inserting there the words “in Georgia”.

**Motion carried
Amendment adopted**

Mr. Scott Smoot, St. James’, Marietta, moved amend the second Resolve by striking the word “scourge” and inserting there the word “plague”.

**Motion carried
Amendment adopted**

The Rev. W. McCord Thigpen, St. Bartholomew’s, Atlanta, moved amend the second Resolve by striking the words, “to stop the scourge of” before “ sexual trafficking of children.”

**Motion carried
Amendment adopted**

The Council voted on Resolution R09-6a with amendment.

**Motion carried
Resolution R09-6a adopted with amendment**

Final text of Resolution R09-6a reads as follows:

Resolved, that the 103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta declare its intention to oppose and prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the state of Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop of Atlanta appoint a Diocesan Task Force to recommend actions to stop the sexual trafficking of children and seek cooperation with other programs and bodies working on this urgent challenge in our communities; and be it further

Resolved, that each parish and worshipping community of the Diocese educate its people regarding sexual trafficking in the Diocese of Atlanta; and be it further

Resolved, that each parish and worshipping community of this Diocese uphold in prayer the Atlanta Urban Intern Program of the Diocese of Atlanta, whose interns work with children in the immediate vicinity of trafficking in metro Atlanta.

Community Ministries: The Rev. Canon Debbie Shew, Chair, reported the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09-7 with committee substitute amendment to read as follows.

R09-7s Training and Advocacy against Domestic Violence

~~*Resolved*, that the members of the 103rd Council of the Diocese of Atlanta speak out clearly against the widespread practice of domestic violence; and be it further~~

~~*Resolved*, that members of this Council covenant to pray for victims and their families; and be it further~~

~~*Resolved*, that we urge the Bishop’s designees review and recommend the utilization of existing training developed for domestic violence prevention in order to counter the culture which sustains it; and be it further~~

~~Resolved, that this Council strongly encourage all bishops and other clergy and lay leadership to participate in such training as may be available to them, and be it further Resolved, that clergy take leadership in making such information and training available to their congregations and their communities.~~

Resolved, that the members of this 103rd Council of the Diocese of Atlanta request the Bishop to appoint a task force to study means by which this diocese can faithfully and effectively address issues related to domestic violence; and be it further

Resolved, that such task force report its progress to the 104th Council of the Diocese.

Motion carried

Resolution R09-7s adopted with substitute amendment

Youth and Young Adults: The Rev. John McCard, Chair, reported the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09-8 with committee amendment to read as follows.

R09-8a Young Adult Ministries

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta affirms affirm the vital importance of all young adults (18-35) including those in ~~and~~ campus ministries for the future of the Church, and affirms the work already begun in support of these ministries in our diocese and parishes; and be it further

Resolved, that parishes will ~~try, in ways that are suited to their local context,~~ work according to the context and whatever avenues are available to them to support and grow these ministries; and be it further

Resolved, that parishes seek out young adults and develop programs to equip them for leadership positions and service with their parish; and be it further

Resolved, that parishes ~~will seek out those that represent this age group (18-35) among them with leadership gifts and help equip them to run for parish vestries~~ encourage these young adult leaders to stand for parish vestry election; and be it further

Resolved, that vestries ~~will~~ strive, where whenever possible, to elect young adults as Delegates to Annual Council ~~that represent this age group;~~ and be it further

Resolved, that the 103rd Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta requests that the Bishop ~~be asked to~~ appoint a diverse commission from throughout the diocese to help guide the future growth of Young Adult Ministries in the Diocese of Atlanta, including support and resources for parishes seeking to call out and encourage the leadership gifts of those in this age group.

Motion carried

Resolution R098a adopted with amendment

Final text of Resolution R09-8a reads as follows.

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta affirm the vital importance of all young adults (18-35) including those in campus ministries, for the future of the Church, and affirm the work already begun in support of these ministries in our diocese and parishes; and be it further

Resolved, that parishes will work according to the context and whatever avenues are available to them to support and grow these ministries; and be it further

Resolved, that parishes seek out young adults and develop programs to equip them for leadership positions and service with their parish; and be it further

Resolved, that parishes encourage these young adult leaders to stand for parish vestry election; and be it further

Resolved, that vestries strive, whenever possible, to elect young adults as Delegates to Annual Council and be it further

Resolved, that the 103rd Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta requests that the Bishop appoint a diverse commission from throughout the diocese to help guide the future growth of Young Adult Ministries in the Diocese of Atlanta, including support and resources for parishes seeking to call out and encourage the leadership gifts of those in this age group.

Global Mission: Mr. Richard Hall, Chair, reported that the committee recommends adoption of Resolution R09-9 without amendment.

R09-9 Companion Diocese Relationship

Resolved, that the 103rd Council of the Episcopal diocese of Atlanta extend its Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro for a period of three years.

Motion carried

Resolution R09-9 adopted

Reconsideration of Resolution R09-3-Affirming the Tithe as the Minimum Standard of Giving

Mr. Ward Bondurant, Cathedral, moved to reconsider Resolution R09-3, affirming that he had voted with the prevailing side on the previous vote on the resolution.

Motion failed to carry

Reconsideration of Resolution R09-3 defeated

Finance: Mr. Stephen Burnett, Chair, reported that the committee unanimously recommends submitting the Proposed Mission and Ministry Budget for 2010 to the Diocesan Executive Board for its establishing the Mission and Ministry Budget for 2010.

Recommendation adopted

Treasurer Pannell honored on retirement

The Bishop announced the retirement of Mr. Gary Pannell, Treasurer of the Diocese, and presented him with the first Bishop's Medal for Lay Persons in honor of Mr. Pannell's long and faithful service as Treasurer of the Diocese. Mr. Pannell addressed the Council.

Election of Diocesan Treasurer

The Bishop nominated and the Council elected Mr. Bennie King as Treasurer of the Diocese.

Place of 104th Annual Council

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee, introduced the Very Rev. C. Dean Taylor, Dean of Northwest Georgia Convocation, who invited the Council to meet in Dalton, Georgia in 2010.

Mrs. Patterson made several administrative announcements.

Report of Committee on Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions

The Rev. John Bolton, Chair, moved the following resolution.

Whereas, we have been graced by the presence amongst us of our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, during these days of the 103rd Council, be it

Resolved, that we express to her our profound gratitude for her ministry of Word and Sacrament and for her "non-anxious" presence in the leadership of The Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, we remember with gratitude the ministries of our former bishops, be it
Resolved, that we send greetings to Bishop Frank Allen and his wife, Elizabeth,
and to Mary Paige Sims, widow of the late Bishop Sims; and

Whereas, we have again welcomed home our missionary in the Church in Central
Tanganyika, The Rev. Sandy McCann, be it

Resolved, that we communicate our prayers and continued support for her and her
husband Martin in that work; and

Whereas, we continue to appreciate and value the special role of our cathedral in
the life of our diocese, be it

Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Dean, Chapter and staff of St.
Philip's for their gracious hospitality during this 103rd Council; and

Whereas, the Diocese of Atlanta continues maintain companion relationships with
other dioceses of The Anglican Communion, be it

Resolved, that we send greetings to Bishop Mdimi of the Diocese of Central
Tanganyika, and Bishop Filadelfo of the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, and Bishop Luis
Fernando of the Diocese of Ecuador Central; and

Whereas, the continued growth and outreach ministry of the Diocese of Atlanta is
reflected in the admission to this Council of the Church of the Common Ground as a
worshipping community and the Church of Christ the King as a Parish, be it

Resolved, that we express to these congregation our gratitude and joy for their
ministries among us; and

Whereas, we have welcomed among us the Diocese of Atlanta Young Adults
group and their leader, Lauren Woody, be it

Resolved, that we extend to them our prayerful support their work and witness; and

Whereas, the Church's global mission is reflected in the work of Episcopal Relief
and Development, and especially in the ministry of Dr. Robert Radtke, in the work of
Bishop Ernest Shalita of Munabura in the Anglican Church of Uganda with orphans and
in ministering to those suffering from HIB/AIDA and in the witness of parishes such as
Holy Family, Jasper and of Kids for Peace, be it

Resolved, that we communicate to them our continued support and prayers; and
be it further

Resolved, that the 103rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta humbly honor
the ongoing ministry of Mr. R.P.M. Bowden, Sr. in the Diocese of Atlanta and the wider
Episcopal Church, which has included service as a member of the Executive Council, a
member of the Executive board of the Diocese, a Vestry member of several parishes, and
a member of numerous committees, commissions, agencies and boards of The Episcopal
Church; and be it further

Resolved, that R.P.M. has achieved the distinction of having been elected several
times a Lay Deputy to General Convention from the Diocese of Atlanta; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council express its profound gratitude for the example R.P.M.
has set as a servant of the Church; and

Whereas, we acknowledge with affection and gratitude the lives and ministries of
those who have died during the past year, we remember the Rev. Gerhard Linz and Mrs.
Ann Harris Barnes, sometime Delegate to Council, Daughter of the King, Episcopal
Churchwoman, Diocesan Officer, and choir director and Organist at St. John's, West
Point. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Motion carried
Resolution adopted

The Bishop led the Council in prayer for the faithful departed.
Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori joined the Council.

Kids for Peace

A chanting delegation from Kids for Peace processed into the Council meeting. The Rev. Eddie Ard, St. Anne's, Atlanta, addressed the Council on the ministry of Kids for Peace. Mr. Trevor Sparrow, Youth Delegate from East Atlanta Convocation and an alumnus of Kids for Peace, told the Council how Kids for Peace had affected his life.

The Bishop presented several gifts from the Diocese to Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori.

Adjournment sine die

The Bishop adjourned the Council sine die at 12:26 p.m., November 7th, 2009.

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Presiding Officer

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary