



DIOCESE of ATLANTA

The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia

MINUTES

108TH Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta November 7 and 8, 2014, in Marietta, Georgia

The 108th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met in the Atlanta/Marietta Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8, 2014. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop, was present. The Marietta Convocation, The Very Rev. Robert Wood, Dean, was the host. The Marietta Convocation held a pre-council golf tournament with the registration fees to be given to the Diocese of Atlanta for mission work.

First day: November 7, 2014

Registration began at 8:30 a.m. Bishop Wright celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. for all persons attending Council.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

Bishop Wright convened the Council with prayer at 11:26 a.m. The Secretary, the Rev. Herschel Atkinson, announced that a constitutional quorum was present based on registrations. He announced that three small parishes had not registered for Council and that three parishes were not in compliance with Diocesan Canon 20. Bishop Wright acknowledged the presence of the Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Ninth Bishop Diocesan. The Council was organized for business

Approval of the Minutes of the 107th Council and adoption of Agenda

On motions made and seconded, the Council approved the Minutes of the 107th Annual Council as set forth on the diocesan website and adopted the published agenda for the 108th Annual Council.

Announcements and Introductions

The Very Rev. Rob Wood, Dean of Marietta Convocation, welcomed all in attendance. He reported that the pre-Council golf tournament raised over \$3,000 to support the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

Bishop Wright welcomed new Clerical Members and Lay Delegates.

Bishop Wright introduced the persons at the head table: The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop, Richard Perry, Esq., Chancellor; Thomas Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor; The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, Secretary; The Rev. Timothy Graham, Assistant Secretary; The Very Rev. Hazel Glover, Dispatch of Business.

The Very Rev. Hazel Glover gave detailed instructions on the dispatch of business at the Council.

Introduction and referral of resolutions to legislative committees

Bishop Wright referred these pre-filed resolutions to these legislative committees:

- C14-1, Amend Section1, Canon 9, to Constitution and Canons
- C14-2, Amend Section 1, Canon 24, to Constitution and Canons
- R14-1, Study Diocesan Clergy Sabbatical Program, to Ministry
- R14-2, Appreciation of Service of Vicky Partin, to Memorials and Courtesy
- R14-3, Review Clergy Continuing Education Program, to Ministry
- R14-4, Medicaid Expansion Advocacy, to Community Ministries

The Very Rev. Hazel Glover, Dean of Southwest Atlanta Convocation, moved a resolution: Support of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport Episcopal Chaplaincy. The motion was seconded. The Secretary assigned it tracking number R14-5. Bishop Wright referred it to Community Ministries. No other resolutions were introduced.

Elections

Bishop Wright announced the names of the nominees for the Standing Committee, Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center, and Trustee, Sewanee the University of the South. There were no more nominations, and Bishop Wright declared the nominations closed.

The Council elected Dr. Timothy Lytle (Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville) and The Rev. Paul (Tripp) Norris (St. Columba's, Suwanee) to the Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center without opposition.

Mr. Karl Sachsenmeier, Chief Teller, instructed the Council on balloting procedure. The Rev. Jim Nixon (St. Catherine's, Marietta) led the Council in prayer. Two ballots were cast for contested vacancies at different times, but the results are listed together.

First ballot cast

Ballots were cast for the following elections from among the nominees shown:

- *Lay Member, Standing Committee:* Charles H. Dale (St. Augustine's, Morrow), Ginny Heckel (St. James', Clayton), and Joyce Hendricks (St. Catherine's, Marietta)
- *Priest Member, Standing Committee:* Jenna Strizak (Holy Trinity, Decatur) and Jamie Stutler (St. Clements', Canton)
- *Trustee, Sewanee the University of the South:* Stephen Burnett (St. Luke's, Atlanta), William D. Harrison (St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta), and Sage Hoare (All Saints', Atlanta)

Results of first ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following elections;

- *Priest Member, Standing Committee:* Jenna Strizak
- *Trustee, Sewanee the University of the South:* Sage Hoare

Second ballot cast

A ballot was cast for election from between the nominees shown.

Lay Member, Standing Committee: Ginny Heckel and Joyce Hendricks

Results of second ballot

Lay Member, Standing Committee: Bishop Wright announced the election of Joyce Hendricks.

Election to Diocesan Board of Review

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, the Rev.Carolynne Williams (Cathedral of St. Philip) for a five-year term and Joseph Smith (Trinity, Columbus) for a four-year term on the Diocesan Board of Review.

Election of Diocesan Officers

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, the following Diocesan Officers: *Chancellor,* Richard Perry, Esq.; *Vice Chancellor,* Thomas Christopher, Esq.; *Secretary,* the Rev. Herschel Atkinson; *Assistant Secretary,* the Rev. Timothy Graham; *Treasurer,* Mr. Bennie King.

Committee appointment

Bishop Wright appointed these persons to the Committee on Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions: the Rev. Kimberly Jackson, Chair (Absalom Jones Chapel, Atlanta) the Rev. Wallace Marsh (Cathedral); the Rev. Mary Wetzel (Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta), Anne Canipe (St. James', Marietta) and Megan Dieboll (Youth Delegate from Southwest Atlanta Convocation).

Report of Canon 20 Compliance Committee

The Very Rev. Harriette Simmons (Christ Church, Macon), Chair, reported on parishes' compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 for support of the diocese's mission and ministry: six parishes appealed non-compliance. Granted in appeals: \$44,297. Pledges to the diocese improved this year over the two previous years.

Council rules were suspended, and Bishop Wright noted that Mrs. Simmons' husband had died recently. The Council expressed support, and Bishop Wright offered prayers for the departed and support for his family.

Presentation of Financial Report and Proposed Draft Budget

Mr. Bennie King, Treasurer, presented the diocesan financial report (published separately) and made comments. Mr. Stephen Burnett, Chair of the Committee on Finance, reported that the most recent audit of diocesan finances gave a "clean opinion." He presented the Proposed Draft Budget for 2015, noting that it will be considered by the Council Finance Committee, approved as a draft, and then referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for final adoption as the budget for 2015.

Appreciation of the service of the Retired Canon to the Ordinary

Canon Rick Callaway and Mrs. Wynn Callaway appeared before the Council. Bishop Wright and Bishop Alexander both expressed their appreciation of his long and faithful service as Canon to the Ordinary. Bishop Wright presented him with a purse of contributions from persons across the diocese.

Noonday prayers and recess

The Rev. Donna Mote (Airport Chaplain) conducted Noonday Prayers and gave a mediation. Janet Patterson, Chair of Diocesan Council Committee, gave instructions on going to lunch. The Council was recessed for lunch at 12:26 p.m.

Afternoon session

Bishop Wright reconvened the Council at 1:30 p.m. The Very Rev. Allen Pruitt, Dean of Chattahoochee Valley Convocation, reported on the work and ministry of the convocations' deans.

Bishop Wright opted not to have a traditional bishop's address because his sermon at the morning Eucharist outlined his observations and vision for the future. Rather, he invited the Council to a time of table-sharing to address these questions: What would God have us to do? What do you value most about being a member of The Episcopal Church? What are the strengths of our diocese? What is our purpose statement? He asked the Council members to designate a note taker at each table to record the content of the discussions. The vergers will collect the results when completed. The Council addressed these questions until 2:30 p.m.

Nan Ross, Diocesan Director of Communication, introduced a book of meditations by Bishop Wright: "Draw the Circle Wider." The books were placed by the exits so Council members could pick them up on the way out.

Recess for legislative committee meetings

The Council was in recess for legislative committee meetings at 2:37 p.m. Bishop Wright reconvened the Council at 4:02 p.m.

Announcements and presentations

Bishop Wright announced the following anniversaries:

Parish Anniversaries: Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville, 175th; St. Mark's LaGrange, 150th; St. George's, Griffin, 150th; St. Paul's, Macon, 145th; St. Luke's, Fort Valley, 75th; Holy Cross, Decatur, 60th; St. Dunstan's, Atlanta, 50th; St. Simon's, Conyers, 50th; and St. Aidan's, Alpharetta, 20th.

Priests' Ordination Anniversaries: *Thirty years:* Albert Daviou, Geoffrey Hoare and "Mac" Thigpen. *Twenty-five years:* Barry Griffin, Margaret "Maggie" Harney, Benno Pattison and Linda Pineo. *Twenty years:* Dann Brown, Katherine Elberfeld, Hugo Jackson, Brian Jemmott, Paul "Tripp" Norris, Ruth Pattison and Debbie Shew.

A video describing the work of Episcopal Service Corps interns from The Road were introduced. Mary Brennan from the Mission Communications Office of The Episcopal Church spoke about the Diocesan Partnership Program. The Rev. Jim Nixon of the Marietta Convocation invited the council to the evening dinner and dance gala.

The Rev. Isaias Rodriquez, Hispanic Missioner, offered a closing meditation for the day. The Council was in recess at 4:38 p.m. until 9:00 a.m., the next day.

Second day: November 8, 2014

Bishop Wright convened the Council at 9:01 a.m. Youth Delegates and other youth who attended the lock-in, led the Council in worship. Bishop Wright invited the council to a Bible study of Matthew 10:7-10. A Youth Delegate read the passage aloud. Written questions by the Bishop for consideration were distributed. Coleman Hand, Youth Delegate from East Atlanta Convocation, led the council in Prayer.

The Beloved Community Commission on Dismantling Racism presented a video about its work.

Legislative committee reports

Bishop Wright called for reports from legislative committees as shown.

MINISTRY: The Rev. Sharon Hiers and the Rev. Roger Allan, Co-Chairs, moved adoption of Resolution R14-1 reading as follows:

- **R14-1 Study Diocesan Clergy Sabbatical Program**

Resolved, that the Bishop Diocesan appoint an ad-hoc committee of Council, drawn from the Commission on Ministry, the Finance Committee, and others to study the present bishop-sponsored Diocesan Sabbatical Program; and be it further

Resolved, that the Committee report to the 109th Annual Council in 2015 its findings and any appropriate proposed legislation.

Motion carried | Resolution R14-1 adopted

They moved approval of Resolution R14-3 as amended in committee to read as follows:

- **R14-3a Review Clergy Continuing Education Policy**

Resolved, that the ~~presbyters-clergy~~ of the Diocese of Atlanta in consultation with the Bishop shall form a committee *composed of both clergy and laity* to write a comprehensive policy for clergy continuing education that will be submitted to the Bishop by ~~the end of 2015~~ *Annual Council 2015*; and be it further

Resolved, that this policy will make careful consideration of clergy wellness in regard to this policy as directed not just by the letter of the law but also to the spirit of the law as enumerated in Canon 35, Section 8 (d) e) that governs clergy continuing education; and be it further

Resolved, that the requirement to comply with the current reporting document be suspended until the new policy is adopted.

Motion carried | Resolution R14-3 adopted with amendment

- **R14-3a Review Clergy Continuing Education Policy** (final form)

Resolved, that the clergy of the Diocese of Atlanta in consultation with the Bishop shall form a committee comprised of both clergy and laity to write a comprehensive policy for clergy continuing education that will be submitted to the Bishop by Annual Council 2015, and be it further

Resolved, that this policy will make careful consideration of clergy wellness in regard to this policy as directed not just by the letter of the law but also to the spirit of the law as enumerated in Canon 35, Section 8 (d) e) that governs clergy continuing education; and be it further

Resolved, that the requirement to comply with the current reporting document be suspended until the new policy is adopted.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: The Rev. Liz Schillingerhoudt, chair, moved adoption of Resolution R14-4 as amended in committee to read as follows:

- **R-14-4a Medicaid Expansion Advocacy**

Resolved, by the 108th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting at the Marietta Conference Center, Marietta, GA, on November 7 and 8, 2014, that our Diocese respectfully request the Presiding Bishop and the Office of Government Relations lead efforts of Bishops to expand Medicaid in the 24 states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council supports our Bishop's courageous efforts to expand Medicaid in Georgia under the Affordable Care Act and the clergy and lay people of the Diocese of Atlanta will encourage and enhance his efforts in 2015 through intentional and specific advocacy to the Governor and the State Legislature; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council encourage Bishop Wright to consider issuing a Joint Statement Supporting Medicaid Expansion in Georgia with Bishop Scott Benhase so all Georgia Episcopalians will be represented in this policy position; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council encourage its clergy and lay people of the Diocese of Atlanta to sign the petition to the Governor at www.coverga.org; post and pass out flyers; call, write, and visit state legislators; participate in Moral Monday rallies at the State Capitol; and, if so inspired, reverently sit in at the Capitol and be arrested.

Motion carried | Resolution R14-4 adopted with amendment

- **R14-4a Medicare Expansion Advocacy** (final Form)

Resolved, by the 108th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting at the Marietta Conference Center, Marietta, Ga., on November 7 and 8, 2014, that our Diocese respectfully request the Presiding Bishop and the Office of Government Relations lead efforts of Bishops to expand Medicaid in the 24 states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council supports our Bishop's courageous efforts to expand Medicaid in Georgia under the Affordable Care Act and the clergy and lay people of the Diocese of Atlanta will encourage and enhance his efforts in 2015 through intentional and specific advocacy to the Governor and the State Legislature; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council encourage Bishop Wright to consider issuing a Joint Statement Supporting Medicaid Expansion in Georgia with Bishop Benhase so all Georgia Episcopalians will be represented in this policy position; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council encourage its clergy and lay people of the Diocese of Atlanta to sign the petition to the Governor at www.coverga.org ; post and pass out flyers; call, write, and visit state legislators; participate in Moral Monday rallies at the State Capitol; and, if so inspired, reverently sit in at the Capitol and be arrested.

It was moved to adopt Resolution R14-5 as amended in committee to read as follows:

- **R-14-5a Support of the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport**

Resolved: that the other nine convocations of the Diocese of Atlanta be *encouraged to join* the Southwest Atlanta Convocation in supporting the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) financially as well as prayerfully beginning in 2015 with a *goal of financial contributions totaling annual contributions* of \$5,000 per convocation.

The motion was debated. The Rev. John Herring (St. Peter's, Rome) moved to table the resolution. The motion was seconded.

Motion carried | Resolution R14-a tabled

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS: Thomas Christopher, Esq., Vice Chair, moved adoption of Resolution C14-1 reading as follows:

- **C14-1 Amend Section 1, Canon 9**

Resolved, that Section 1 of Canon 9 **Of the Board of Governors of Appleton Episcopal Ministries** be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Appleton Episcopal Ministries of the Diocese of Atlanta shall be under the direction and control of a Board to be known as the Board of Governors of Appleton Episcopal Ministries. Appleton Episcopal Ministries shall be a ministry of the Macon Convocation and the Diocese of Atlanta. ~~The purpose of Appleton is to share God's love by~~

~~promoting health, education, and safety of underserved children and families in central Georgia.~~

Motion carried | Resolution C14-1 adopted

He moved adoption of Resolution C14-2 reading as follows:

- C14-2 Amend Section1, Canon 24

Resolved, that Section 1 of Canon 24 **Of the Thanksgiving Day Offering** be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Every minister in charge of any Church in this Diocese shall take a special offering for the Appleton Episcopal Ministries ~~Appleton Family Ministries Fund for Children and Youth at Risk~~ on Thanksgiving Day or between the Sundays preceding and following Thanksgiving Day, both inclusive.

Motion carried | Resolution C14-2 adopted

FINANCE: Stephen Burnett, chair, presented the Proposed Draft Budget for 2015 for referral to the Executive Board for final action.

Draft approved

**Appreciation of Service of Stephen Burnett and
Appointment of Chair of Finance Department**

Bishop Wright acknowledged the completion of 27 years' faithful service of Stephen Burnett as Chair of the Diocesan Finance Department. He announced the appointment of Les Callahan (St. Anne's, Atlanta) as the next Chair.

The Council was in recess for 15 minutes.

Announcements and Presentations

The Rev. Liz Schillingerhoudt addressed the Council on the topic of human trafficking. She presented the Miriam's Gift award to Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake, founder of the Path To Shine program. Bishop Wright acknowledged the parishes that have Path To Shine programs.

Episcopal Charities Foundation presented a video on The Matthew Project in Pickens County, Georgia.

The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop, addressed the Council.

The Rev. Roger Allan and the Very Rev. Rob Wood (Marietta Convocation) presented a golf trophy to the Rev. John Chase, and reported that 55 golfers took part the pre-Council golf tournament that raised \$3,750 for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Place and date of 109th Annual Council

The Rev. Ceci Duke (Christ, Norcross) and Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee, moved that the 109th Annual be hosted by the Northeast Metro Convocation and meet in the Gwinnett Center in Duluth, Georgia, on November 13 and 14, 2015.

Motion carried

Report and Resolutions of Memorials and Courtesy Committee

The Rev. Kimberly Jackson, Chair, moved the following resolutions that were seconded.

Resolved, that this 108th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta extend greetings to: the Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander; the Rt. Rev. Frank K. Allan and Mrs. Elizabeth Allan; The Rt. Rev. Milton Wood, retired Bishop Suffragan of Atlanta; The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori., Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; the Rt. Rev. Filadelfo Olivera, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, our companion diocese; and to the Rt. Rev. Victor Scantleberry, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Ecuador Central, our companion diocese; and be it further

- *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore for his faithful leadership of the Episcopal Studies Program at the Candler School of Theology and for his continued loving service to our diocese; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we send appreciation and prayers of support to Dr. Martin McCann and the Rev. Sandy McCann in their ministry in Central Tanganyika; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, 10th Bishop of Atlanta, for his leadership, and we pray that the Spirit of God guide this Council as we further discern our purpose; and let it be further
- *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude to the dean, clergy and people of the Marietta Convocation for hosting Annual Council, along with expressions of gratitude to the Chancellor and Officers of Annual Council; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude for the Rev. E. Claiborne Jones on the occasion of her retirement as the Vicar and Director of Emmaus House; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we offer appreciation for Vicky Partin on the occasion of her retirement after 34 years as Lay Missioner of Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude for the ministry of the Rev. Richard H. Callaway, retired Canon to the Ordinary, for his leadership and faithful service for 13 years; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude to Stephen Burnett for his leadership and faithful service as Chair of the Diocesan Department of Finance for the past 27 years; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we extend our prayers for reconciliation to the community of the General Theological Seminary; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that we remember with prayerful gratitude the life and witness of those who have died in the past year: Mrs. Mary Page Sims, widow of Bishop Bennett J. Sims, Sixth Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Atlanta, and the Rt. Rev. Mdimi Mhogolo, Bishop Diocesan of Central Tanganyika, our companion diocese; and the Rev. James Clark and the Rev. Shelley Baer, priests of this diocese; and Marcia C. Jenkins, Assistant Secretary to Council for 18

years; and Lay Delegates Abby Hinson, Roy Henry Johnson, Graham Ponder, Robert Rood, Jim Simmons, Shirley Virginia Smith Walker, and Leslie Starr; and those who have given their lives in service of our country.

Motion carried | Resolution adopted

Bishop Wright offered prayer for the departed persons

Closing announcements and adjournment

Bishop Wright gave his recognition and thanks to: the Chair of the Annual Council Committee; the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Council; the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor; the Dispatch of Business Chair; the Bishop's Staff; the Budget and Finance Committee and all who worked on the 2015 Mission and Ministry Budget; all who led music and offered meditations; Chairs of Committees; and the hosting Marietta Convocation's clergy, staff, musicians, and volunteers for their hospitality.

The Rev. Rebecca Hatch led the Council in the song "Draw the Circle Wide".

Bishop Wright adjourned the Council *sine die* at 12:20 p.m.

Bishop Wright blessed the members their before departure.

The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Presiding Officer

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary