



DIOCESE of ATLANTA

The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia
2744 Peachtree Road NW • Atlanta, GA 30305 • 404-601-5320 or 800-537-6743 • episcopalatlanta.org

MINUTES

109th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta November 13 and 14, 2015, in Duluth, Georgia

The 109th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met in the Gwinnett Infinite Energy Center on Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, 2015. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop, was present. The Northeast Metro Convocation, The Very Rev. Kent Branstetter, Dean, was the host.

First day: November 13, 2015

Registration began at 7:30 a.m. Bishop Wright celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. for all persons attending Council. The Voices of Hope Women's Choir from Lee Arrendale Women's Detention Center offered a choral prelude, and were joined by a choir from the convocation in leading congregational singing during the Eucharist.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

Bishop Wright convened the Council with prayer at 11:07 a.m. The Secretary, the Rev. Herschel Atkinson, announced that a constitutional quorum was present based on registrations and requested that all delegates who had not already done so to register. He announced that five parishes had not registered for Council and that five parishes were not in compliance with Diocesan Canon 20.

The Council was organized for business.

Seating of Lay Delegate from The Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta

The Rev. Dan Matthews, Chair of the Church of the Common Ground Advisory Board, moved the seating of the Lay Delegate from that worshipping community,

Motion seconded and carried. Lay Delegate seated.

Union of Parish of St. James', Macon, with Diocesan Council ended

The Very Rev. Joseph Shippen, Interim Dean of the Macon Convocation, reported that St. James Episcopal Church, located at 1080 Courtland Avenue, Macon, Georgia, held its final worship service on August 30, 2015, had ceased all worship activity as of that time, and was not able to fulfil the requirements of Canon 30 of the Diocese. Bishop Wright recommended that Council end its union with the parish. The Council voted by orders on the Bishop's recommendation.

Motion carried in both clerical and lay orders.

Union of St. James', Macon, with Council of Diocese of Atlanta ended.

Approval of the Minutes of the 108th Council and adoption of Agenda

On motions made and seconded, the Council approved the Minutes of the 108th Annual Council as set forth on the diocesan website and adopted the published agenda for the 109th Annual Council, as amended, the amendment being that committees would reconvene that day at 4:15pm.

Announcements and Introductions

The Very Rev. Kent Branstetter, Dean of the Northeast Metro Convocation, welcomed all in attendance. 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. P. Richard Game, Assistant Secretary; The Very Rev. Hazel Glover, Dispatch of Business.

Bishop Wright also acknowledged the presence of diocesan staff and The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, Assisting Bishop.

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 Council legislative committees:

- R15-1, Endowment Fund of Episcopal Charities Foundation, to Community Ministries
- R15-2, Dismantling Racism, to Beloved Community/Dismantling racism
- R15-3, Task Force on Health Care for Georgia's Working Poor, to Community Ministries
- R15-4, Diocesan Statement on Purpose, to Purpose Statement
- The Propose Draft 2016 Operating Budget to Finance

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 the following persons as shown without opposition.

Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center: Liz Beal Kidd (St. Patrick's, Dunwoody) and The Rev. David Wagner (St. Luke's, Atlanta)

Lay Trustee of the University of the South: George Williamson (St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Atlanta)

Mr. Karl Sachsenmeier, Chief Teller, instructed the Council on balloting procedure

First (and only) ballot cast

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

- *Lay Member, Standing Committee:* Ann Eubanks, (All Saints, Warner Robins), Beth King (Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta)
- *Priest Member, Standing Committee:* Christopher Cole, (Emmanuel, Athens), Kimberly Jackson, (Absalom Jones Center, Atlanta), Ben Wells (St. Francis, Macon)

Results of first ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following elections;

- *Lay Member, Standing Committee:* Beth King
- *Priest Member, Standing Committee:* The Rev. Kimberly Jackson

Election to Diocesan Board of Review

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, the Rev. Robert Salamone (Emmanuel, Athens) for a five-year term and Deacon Barbara Windom to fill the unexpired term of Deacon Ed Fuller, who resigned and whose term expires in 2018, and Lisa Daly (Epiphany, Decatur) as lay member for a four year term.

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. P. Richard Game; *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 (the Cathedral of St. Philip); the Rev. Fabio Sotelo (St. Bede's, Atlanta), Anne Canipe (St. James', Marietta) and Susanne Sokolowski, (Youth Delegate from the North 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: eleven parishes appealed non-compliance (compared to six in 2014). Granted in appeals: \$107,825 (compared to \$44,297 in 2014).

Presentation of Financial Report and Proposed Draft Budget

Mr. Bennie King, Treasurer, presented the diocesan financial report (published separately) and made comments, and reported that the most recent audit of diocesan finances gave a "clean opinion." Mr. King presented the Proposed Draft Budget for 2016, noting that it will be considered by the Council Finance Committee, approved as the Draft Budget, and then referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for final adoption as the Budget for 2016.

Reports

Bishop Wright introduced the video, "*Be Partners in Community*," and recognized the Rev. Donna Mote, who reported on the work of the Innovations Task Force.

Noonday prayers and recess for lunch

Bishop Wright offered a prayer for noonday and grace for lunch.

Janet Patterson, Chair of Diocesan Annual Council Committee, gave instructions on going to lunch.

The Council was recessed for lunch 12:07 p.m.

Bishop Wright reconvened the Council at 1:14 p.m.

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.

The Very Rev. Janice Bracken Wright, Dean of the Northwest Georgia Convocation, introduced "*Our Purpose*" work, including the introduction of a proposed purpose statement and showing of a video entitled, "*Living Into Our Purpose.*"

The Very Rev. Allen Pruitt, Dean of the Chattahoochee Valley Convocation, introduced the purpose work to be considered by at the tables. The Council members' table groups considered the three questions presented to them from 1:25 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. Dean Pruitt summarized the work at the tables.

Announcements and presentations

Bishop Wright recognized and thanked Nancy Armstrong, Founder of the Institute for Ministry and Theological Education for her eight years' service, and presented her with a certificate of thanks.

Bishop Wright announced Priests' Ordination Anniversaries. 20 years: Margaret Cramer, Alicia Schuster Weltner, Harriette Simmons and Tricia Templeton; 25 years: Laura Bryant, Lynnsay Buehler, Julie Huston and Dan Mathews; 30 years: Kent Branstetter, James Hamner, Isaias Rodriguez and Dean Taylor; 35 years: Spenser Simrill and George Yandell; 40 years: Carl Buice and Doug Coil.

Bishop Wright called Tom Brackett to bring greetings from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Bishop Wright called the Rev. Keith Oglesby to present "*Our Stories,*" including a PowerPoint presentation and work at tables.

Bishop Wright introduced the video, "*Serve with Compassion.*"

Council recessed for Committee Meetings

Bishop Wright recessed the Council for legislative committee meetings at 3:05 p.m.

Bishop Wright called Council to order at 4:25 p.m.

Awards and Announcements

The Episcopal Charities Foundation video on *The Matthew Project* was viewed.

Bishop Wright recognized Diane Burrows and Suzie Whitmore for the presentation of the United Thank Offering Award to Rainbow Village

Bishop Wright recognized Julie Groce for the announcement of Appleton Family Ministries grants.

Bishop Wright recognized the Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt for the presentation of the Commission on Human Trafficking's annual *Miriam's Gift* to Kathleen Dmitrescu (St. Luke's, Atlanta), on behalf of "*Faithful Visitors.*"

Bishop Wright called on Bishop Wimberly for remarks.
Bishop Wright introduced the video, “*Reach Out.*”

Bishop Wright called the Council to recess at 5:07 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. the next day.

Second day: November 14, 2015

Bishop Wright convened the Council at 9:00 am.

Easton David, Diocesan Youth Minister, presented the montage, “*We are the Now,*” and led morning worship until 9:15 am.

Legislative agenda

Bishop Wright called for reports from legislative committees as shown.

Community Ministries: The Rev. Greg Tallant, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R15-1, as amended, reading as follows:

R15-1a Endowment Fund of the Episcopal Charities Foundation

Resolved, The Episcopal Charities Foundation, as envisioned by The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims, the 6th Bishop of Atlanta, was established as an entity of The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta in 1982 by the 75th Annual Council of The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta to serve the poor and oppressed throughout the Diocese, and the current Diocesan Council wishes to reaffirm the legacy that has existed through the work of Episcopal Charities Foundation for the last 33 years and to provide for future growth in service to the poor and oppressed throughout the Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that

- A. The purpose of Episcopal Charities Foundation (the Foundation) shall continue to be to serve the poor and oppressed throughout The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta (the Diocese) in a manner determined by the Board of Directors of the Foundation (the Board) with ~~approval~~ *the consent* of the Bishop of Atlanta (The Bishop).
- B. The Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation shall be named “The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation” (the Endowment).
- C. The Board of the Foundation shall be organized in a way recommended by the Board with the ~~approval~~ *consent* of The Bishop so that its members are from a mix of lay and ordained persons throughout the Diocese. The Board shall be governed by the Canons of the Diocese, the Resolution set forth herein and Bylaws of the Foundation established by the Board with the ~~approval~~ *consent* of The Bishop.
- D. It is expected that optimum use will be made of volunteer personnel and ministers for the work of the Foundation; however, the Foundation may use limited funds approved in advance by the Board and The Bishop for compensation to a Director ~~and support staff, fund raising, marketing, and other necessary administrative costs to carry out its~~ *to carry out the Board’s* ministries and purpose.
- E. Funds used for ministries and other purposes of the Foundation are to be raised from solicitations of Parishes, individuals, business and foundations; events; Endowment distributions; planned gifts and bequests; and other sources. Any restricted gifts received will be used in accordance with the stated restrictions.

- F. Grants and payments for ministries are to be distributed in such a way as to represent careful attention to the poor and oppressed in all parts of the Diocese.

Motion carried | Resolution R15-1a adopted

Final form of Resolution R15-1a reads as follows.

R15-1a Endowment Fund of the Episcopal Charities Foundation

Resolved, The Episcopal Charities Foundation, as envisioned by The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims, the 6th Bishop of Atlanta, was established as an entity of The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta in 1982 by the 75th Annual Council of The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta to serve the poor and oppressed throughout the Diocese, and the current Diocesan Council wishes to reaffirm the legacy that has existed through the work of Episcopal Charities Foundation for the last 33 years and to provide for future growth in service to the poor and oppressed throughout the Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that

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B. The Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation shall be named “The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation” (the Endowment).

C. The Board of the Foundation shall be organized in a way recommended by the Board with the consent of The Bishop so that its members are from a mix of lay and ordained persons throughout the Diocese. The Board shall be governed by the Canons of the Diocese, the Resolution set forth herein and Bylaws of the Foundation established by the Board with the consent of The Bishop.

D. It is expected that optimum use will be made of volunteer personnel and ministers for the work of the Foundation; however, the Foundation may use limited funds approved in advance by the Board and The Bishop for compensation to a Director to carry out the Board’s ministries and purpose.

E. Funds used for ministries and other purposes of the Foundation are to be raised from solicitations of Parishes, individuals, business and foundations; events; Endowment distributions; planned gifts and bequests; and other sources. Any restricted gifts received will used in accordance with the stated restrictions.

F. Grants and payments for ministries are to be distributed in such a way as to represent careful attention to the poor and oppressed in all parts of the Diocese.

Beloved Community/Dismantling Racism: Catherine Meeks, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R15-2 reading as follows:

R15-2 Dismantling Racism

Resolved, that every worshipping community in the Diocese of Atlanta take seriously the sin of racism; and be it further,

Resolved, that we strongly encourage every clergy and lay leader in our diocese to attend an anti-racism training as required in accordance with resolution B049 passed by General Convention 2000; and be it further,

Resolved, that each worshipping community, particularly over the next year, actively engage in dialogue, education, and/or action to address racial inequality; and be it further,

Resolved, that each worshipping community report their activity to the Beloved Community: Dismantling Racism no later than October 1, 2016.

Motion carried | Resolution R15-2 adopted

Community Ministries/Task Force On Health Care for Georgia's Working Poor

The Rev. Greg Tallant, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R15-3 with amendment, reading as follows

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R15-3a Task Force on HealthCare for Georgia's Working Poor

Resolved, that the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta form a task force whose purpose is to ~~advocate, monitor and help~~ *inform, educate, and advise* the Governor of the State of Georgia and the Georgia General Assembly to enact legislation accepting federal funding in order to expand Medicaid for all eligible Georgia citizens under the Affordable Care Act. ~~We should not allow political divisions to deter us from doing what is morally right for the working poor of the State of Georgia. We charge the task force to advocate for what is morally right for the working poor in the State of Georgia~~

Motion carried | Resolution R15-3a adopted

Final form of Resolution R15-3a reads as follows.

R15-3a Task Force on HealthCare for Georgia's Working Poor

Resolved, that the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta form a taskforce whose purpose is to advocate, monitor and help the Governor of the State of Georgia and the Georgia General Assembly to enact legislation accepting federal funding in order to expand Medicaid for all eligible Georgia citizens under the Affordable Care Act. We should not allow political divisions to deter us from doing what is morally right for the working poor of the State of Georgia.

Diocesan Statement of Purpose/Purpose: The Very Rev. Allen Pruitt, Chair, moved to refer Resolution R15-4, reading as follows, to the Council for action without a committee recommendation.

R15-4 Statement of Purpose.

Resolved, that the 109th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta affirm this statement of purpose for our common life together: "We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."

The Council debated the resolution.

The Rev, Benno Pattison moved to refer the resolution to the Convocation Deans for further consideration.

Motion failed to carry

Debate resumed.

Motion carried Resolution R15-4 adopted

Finance: Bennie King, Diocesan Treasurer, moved the Proposed Draft Budget for 2016 be adopted as the Draft Budget and referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for final action.

Motion carried. Draft Budget referred to Executive Board

Announcements and Presentations

Bishop Wright called Nan Ross, Director of Communications, to recognize her with thanks and for presentation of a gift.

John McConnell reported on the work of The Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.

Bishop Wright introduced the video, “*Meet People’s Needs.*”

Bishop Wright recognized Bishop Whitmore for his reflections.

Place and date of 110th Annual Council

Bishop Wright recognized Janet Patterson and the Very Rev. Hazel Glover for a Report on the committee on Annual Council, who moved that the 110th Annual Council be hosted by the Southwest Atlanta Convocation on November 18-19, 2016, at 2000 Convention Center Concourse, College Park, Georgia.

Motion carried

Report and Resolutions of Memorials and Courtesy Committee

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

Be it Resolved, that this 109th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta extend greetings to the R. Rev. Neil Alexander, the Rt. Rev. Frank Allan and Mrs. Allan; to The Rt. Rev. Filadelfo Olivera, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, our companion diocese; and to the Rt. Rev. Victor Scantlebery, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Ecuador Central, our companion diocese; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, for her enduring service to the Church and for providing 9 years of steady leadership as the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

Let it be further Resolved, that we joyfully join our new Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael C. Curry in the Jesus Movement.

Let it be further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Tenth Bishop of Atlanta, and the Deans of the convocation for their leadership. We pray that the Spirit of the God guide this Council as we live into our statement of Purpose; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore and the Rt. Reverend Don Wimberly for their faithful leadership and for their continued loving service to our diocese; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we send appreciation and prayers of support to Dr. Martin McCann, the Rev. Sandy McCann and Magi Griffin in their ministry in Central Tanganyika; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Dean, clergy and people of the Northeast Metro Convocation for hosting Annual Council, along with expression of gratitude to the Chancellor and Officers of Annual Council; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we commend to ministries in other diocese: Troy Beecham, James Pace, Stewart Tabb, Margaret Rose, Richard Proctor, Joe Greene, Daniel Crockett, Lee Curtis, Dena Bearl, and Larry Willams; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we extend our prayers for peace, comfort and healing to the people of Paris, France during this time of fear and terror; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we write into record our deep and profound appreciation for the faithful clergy and laity who daily love, care, and serve parishes and worshipping communities in the Diocese of Atlanta; and

Be it further Resolved, that this legacy of keeping the sacraments, tending the sick, and nurturing community remain a central focus for us.

Let it be further Resolved, that we acknowledge the absence of the Very Reverend Charles Fisher, the Reverend Ryan Kuratko and the Reverend Lauren Kuratko, and we rejoice in the births of their new sons; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we express thanksgiving for Chaplain Susan Bishop, and the Voices of Hope Choir of the Lee Arrendale Prison for their musical offerings and presence at Council worship; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we commend the work of the Reverend Cathy Zappa, and all who serve in Episcopal worship services and the Theological Studies Program at Lee Arrendale Women's prison, we express gratitude for those who diligently work in all prison ministries and for those who seek to end the death penalty; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we commend the years of faithful ministry at St. James, Macon; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we give thanks to Dr. Catherine Meeks, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Hiers and the Beloved Community: Commission on Dismantling Racism for calling us to repentance and reconciliation and offering practical tools to help congregations and leaders understand and address the dynamics of racism in the 21st century; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we celebrate the new Jasper Medical Clinic sponsored by the Episcopal Charities Foundation. We pray for all who are sick and the suffering, and we commend the work and care provided by those in the healing professions; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we send appreciation to Easton Davis, Diocesan Youth Missioner, for leading our youth in service with the Stop Hunger Project this weekend, and we commend over 80 youth for their faithful presence at this weekend's diocesan events; and

We also remember with prayerful gratitude for their life and witness those who have died in the past year:

Clergy: The Right Reverend Milton Wood, the Reverend Ken Kinnett, the Reverend Carter Maddox, Deacon Charles Baldwin, Deacon Judy Padgett and Lay Delegates: Elizabeth Dunn, Duncan Curl, Graham Roberts, Adelaide Ponder, Kathleen Bates, Beverly Hall, Bob Irish, WC Wyatt, James Hefner, Dabney Hart, John Minor, Stuart Gould, Nathaniel Jackson, 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 2016 Mission and Ministry Budget; all who led worship and music; Chaplain Bishop and the women of Arrendale Prison; Chairs of Committees; and the hosting Northeast Metro Convocation's clergy, staff, musicians, and volunteers for their hospitality.

Bishop Wright adjourned the Council *sine die* at 11:13 p.m.

Bishop Wright blessed the participants at Council prior to their departure.

Bishop Wright announced the close of Council with the video, "*St. Teresa's Prayer.*"

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

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary