

Information about the Diocese of Atlanta Annual Council and Responsibilities of Delegates

WHAT:

The Council of the Diocese of Atlanta meets annually in legislative session, as canonically required, to do the business of the diocese at a time established by the previous Council (usually during the second week in November.) It also is an opportunity for the diocesan community to gather for worship, for conversation and to strengthen its bonds.

WHO:

- ▶ All eligible clergy (**Constitution of the Diocese of Atlanta, Article 2**) are members of Council and duly elected lay delegates (**Canon 1, Section 2**) have seat, voice and vote. In the Diocese of Atlanta, all canonically-resident, active presbyters are allowed to vote. The Constitution allows retired, semi-retired or inactive presbyters who request, in writing, seat at Council and consent of the Bishop of Atlanta, to vote as well. Deacons, both transitional and vocational, do not vote.
- ▶ **It is the responsibility of each person entitled to a seat in the Council to attend every meeting thereof.** Delegates receive information prior to Council about proposed resolutions, changes to the Canons or Constitution, about elective positions, and the proposed budget for the following year. **It is the responsibility of delegates to bring all information received prior to Council to the legislative sessions.** At Council registration in November delegate folders will include additional material needed for the meeting.
- ▶ All members of parishes are welcome to attend any part of Council as **visitors**. To receive Council materials and have lunches provided, the same registration fee for delegates applies to visitors.
- ▶ **The President of Council and the President of the Executive Board is the Bishop of Atlanta. The Executive Board** conducts the business of Council between the annual meetings in November.
- ▶ The **Secretary** (the Rev. Herschel Atkinson) is elected annually by Council upon nomination by the Bishop.
- ▶ The **Treasurer** (Mr. Bennie King) is elected annually by Council upon nomination by the Bishop.
- ▶ The **Chancellor** (Mr. Richard Perry) is the legal advisor to the Bishop. He and the **Assistant Chancellor** (Mr. Tom Christopher) are elected annually by Council upon nomination by the Bishop.
- ▶ The **Standing Committee** serves as a council of advice to the Bishop and as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese if there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan canonically authorized to act. One presbyter and one lay person are elected at each Council to serve a three-year term.

continued

More: **Information about Council and Responsibilities of Delegates**

HOW:

- ▶ For administration and mission work, parishes are organized into **Convocations**, each headed by a resident cleric (Dean) appointed by the Bishop. Clergy and elected lay delegates to Council meet, as called by the Dean, in Convocations to prepare for Council. Convocations elect, alternately, one cleric or one lay person, to serve a two-year term on the **Executive Board**. The 10 Convocations rotate the host duties for Council.
- ▶ Council procedure is governed by the **Rules of Order of the Council of the Diocese**, which conform to **Robert's Rules of Order**.
- ▶ **Nominations** for elected positions are received from the Convocations, from individuals, or from the floor of Council. For publication on the diocesan website in advance of Council and in official packets on opening day, nominations should be submitted 3 weeks prior to council to council@episcopalatlanta.org.
- ▶ **Ballots** for the elections are provided in the registration folders. Other voting is accomplished with voice vote, and if a show of hands is requested, green and red vote cards are used and provided for in the delegate folders. The **Chief Teller** is appointed by the Bishop.
- ▶ **Resolutions** and proposed changes in the Canons and Constitution are presented most often through Convocations. For publication on the diocesan website, resolutions should be submitted 3 weeks prior to council to council@episcopalatlanta.org. Any delegate, however, may introduce a resolution to before recess for lunch on the first legislative day. Copies for each delegate must be produced (600 copies).
- ▶ Proposed **changes to the Canons or Constitution** must be submitted to the Secretary of the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons (the Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson) at least 30 days before Council convenes.
- ▶ **Committees** meet on the afternoon of the first legislative day to consider resolutions referred to them by the bishop and any other matters relevant to the committee's work. Delegates will be given the opportunity to request a committee assignment. Delegates can attend any committee, but only delegates assigned to a committee by the Bishop are permitted to vote in committee on proposed resolutions.
- ▶ A **Journal** of the proceedings of Council is prepared by the Secretary of Council.

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For more information, please refer to The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta with the Rules of Order of the Council at EpiscopalAtlanta.org