



DIOCESE of ATLANTA

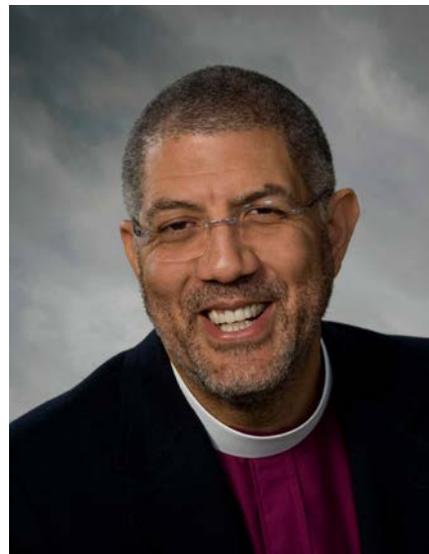
The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia
2744 Peachtree Road NW • Atlanta, GA 30305 • 404-601-5320 or 800-537-6743 • episcopalatlanta.org

Long Bio for Bishop Robert C. Wright

The Right Rev. Robert Christopher Wright was elected June 2, 2012, by lay delegates and priests of the Diocese of Atlanta to become the 10th bishop in the diocese's 105-year history. He was ordained and consecrated a bishop on Saturday, Oct. 13, in a special worship service at Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on the campus of Morehouse College. He is the first African American to become an Episcopal bishop in Georgia.

Wright was born Feb. 3, 1964, in a Roman Catholic orphanage in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and at the age of nine months was adopted by Earl C. and Charlene Wright. After graduating high school, he served five years as a U. S. Navy helicopter crew chief and search and rescue diver before entering Howard University in Washington, D.C. Upon graduating from Howard in 1991 with a degree in history and political science, he worked as a child advocate for two mayors and for the Children's Defense Fund. He later earned a certificate in biblical studies at Ridley Hall, Cambridge University in England, and a master of divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia. On July 4, 1998, he married Beth-Sarah Panton.

He was ordained a priest in on Feb. 13, 1999, by Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon in the Diocese of Washington. Prior to moving to Atlanta, he was Canon Pastor and Vicar of the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, New York, (1998 – 2002) and served as chaplain of the Cathedral School in New York City (1998 – 2000). He received the Harvard Summer Leadership Certificate in 2006 and the Certificate in Pastoral Leadership from Oxford University, England, in 2007. After he was ordained bishop, he was awarded honorary doctor of divinity degrees from the Virginia Theological Seminary and from the School of Theology at Sewanee: The University of the South.



At the time of his election as bishop he was rector of historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where he had served 10 years, a period that saw dramatic growth. Also during the past decade, Wright has served the Atlanta community as a member of Leadership Atlanta, on the board of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School. In the Diocese of Atlanta, in addition to serving as the dean of the Mid-Atlanta Convocation, he has chaired the Commission on Ministry, the deputation to the General Convention, and served as youth dean at Camp Mikell. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Virginia Theological Seminary. In 2015, he was named among the 100 Most Influential Georgians by *GeorgiaTrend* magazine.

He is married to Beth Sarah-Wright, Ph.D., an inspirational speaker and author, and mother to their five children: Jordan, Emmanuel, Selah, Noah and Moses-Daniel. Originally from Jamaica, she has lived and studied worldwide. In her speaking and writing, she tackles issues of faith and depression, the stigmas of mental illness and the role telling your story plays in healing. Dr. Wright holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University, a BA (magna cum laude) from Princeton University in Sociology and Afro-American Studies, and an MPhil in Anthropology from Cambridge University. A former professor at New York University and Spelman College, she currently serves as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Emory School of Medicine. She is the author of three books. For speaking requests and to view her blog, click [here](#).