



DIOCESE of ATLANTA

The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia
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MINUTES of the 112th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, November 9 and 10, 2018, Atlanta, Georgia.

The 112th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta, Georgia, Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10, 2018. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The North Atlanta Convocation was the host.

FIRST DAY: NOVEMBER 9, 2018

Registration began at 7:30 a.m.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

At 9:05 a.m, The Bishop called on the Secretary, The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, who 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 7 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 Very Rev. Monica Mainwaring, Dean of the Mid-Atlanta Convocation, moved the seating of the Lay Delegate from Church of the Common Ground,

Motion seconded and carried. Lay Delegate seated.

Approval of the Minutes of the 111th Council

Bishop Wright called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 111th Annual Council.

Motion seconded and carried. Minutes adopted.

Adoption of the Agenda

Bishop Wright called for a motion to adopt the Agenda as included in Council folders.

Motion seconded and carried. Agenda adopted.

Announcements and Introductions

Bishop Wright welcomed first time delegates and new clergy members to Council.

Bishop Wright introduced the persons at the head table: Richard Perry, Esq., Chancellor and Parliamentarian; Tom Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor; The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, Secretary; The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster-Weltner, The Chair of Dispatch of Business.

A video played Introducing the Theme of Council, "We challenge the world."

Bishop's Address

Bishop Wright delivered the Bishop's Address to Council.

Introduction and referral of resolutions to legislative committees

Bishop Wright called upon the Chair of Dispatch of Business, who provided detailed instructions on dispatch of business.

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

- **C18-01** Procedure For Securing Approval Of Encumbrances Of Parish Property (Constitution and Canons)
- **R18-01** Resolution to Dissolve the Commission on HIV/AIDS (Community Ministries)
- **R18-02** Resolution Concerning Prejudiced-Based Violence and Social Media (Community Ministries)

Elections

Bishop Wright appointed Mr. Phillip Knight (St. Teresa's, Acworth), as Chief Teller, with authority to appoint tellers for the elections from among the Vergers Guild of the Diocese of Atlanta.

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

Bishop Wright announced the following election of nominees without opposition.

Standing Committee, Lay:

Mary Caroline Davies Cravens, (The Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta)

Board of Governors, Mikell Camp and Conference Center:

John Ballard (Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville)

Timothy Lytle (Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville)

The Chief Teller, instructed the Council on balloting procedure. Ballots for elections for Standing Committee (clergy) and Trustee of the University of the South (lay) were interposed among other business of the Council. The results of each election are grouped together here for convenience of reference.

First Ballot Cast

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

Standing Committee, Clergy, elect one

The Very Rev. Monica Mainwaring, Vicar (Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta)

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, Priest Associate (St. Bede's, Atlanta)

The Rev. Nikki Mathis, Rector (St. Gregory the Great, Athens)

Trustee of the University of the South, Sewanee, lay, (elect one)

Harold Rahn, (St. George, Griffin)

George Williamson (St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Brookhaven)

Results of First Ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following persons were elected;

Trustee of the University of the South, Sewanee, lay
George Williamson (St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Brookhaven)

Second Ballot Cast

A ballot was cast for the remaining vacancy from among the persons shown.

Standing Committee, Clergy (elect one)

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, Priest Associate (St. Bede's, Atlanta)

The Rev. Nikki Mathis, Rector (St. Gregory the Great, Athens)

Results of Second Ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following persons were elected:

Standing Committee, Clergy

The Rev. Nikki Mathis, Rector (St. Gregory the Great, Athens)

Presentation on Cape Coast Ghana

Bishop Wright called upon The Rev. Dr. Sharon Hiers to introduce the video, Cape Coast Ghana Companionship Video.

Elections to Diocesan Board of Review

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, Deacon Barbara Windom (St. Stephen's, Milledgeville) (second term) for a five-year term, and Mr. Joseph Smith (Trinity, Columbus) (second term) for a four-year term.

Elections 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 Very Rev. P. Richard Game; *Treasurer*, Mr. Bennie King; *Registrar*, Richard Perry, Esq.

Committee appointments

Bishop Wright appointed the following to the Committee on Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions: The Rev. Chris Miller, Chair (Our Savior, Atlanta); The Rev. Deby Adinolfi (St. Teresa's, Acworth); The Rev. Fabio Sotelo (San Bedas y San Eduardo); Avery Culp (Youth Delegate); Ms. Linda Gerdes, Lay Delegate (All Saints, Warner Robins).

Report of Canon 20 Compliance Committee

The Rev. Edwin Beckham (Church of the Good Shepherd, Covington), Chair of the Canon 20 Appeals Board, reported on parishes' compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 for support of the Diocese's mission and ministry: thirteen parishes appealed non-compliance (compared to nine in 2017). Granted in appeals: \$155,678 (compared to \$119,517 in 2017).

Presentation of Financial Report and Proposed Draft Budget

Mr. Bennie King, Treasurer, presented the diocesan financial report (published separately), made comments, and reported that the most recent audit of diocesan finances gave a "clean opinion."

Mr. Les Callahan, Chair of the Diocesan Committee on Finance, presented the Proposed Draft Mission and Ministry Budget for 2019, 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 2019.

Other Reports

Ms. Kate Kennedy, Executive Director of The Boyce L. Ansley School at St. Luke's, Atlanta, reported on the mission of the School. Bishop Wright then introduced a video about the school.

The Rev. Tom Pumphrey, Chair (St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta), gave a report from the Congregational Vitality Advisory Team.

Morning Recess

The Bishop Announced a morning recess at 10:25am. Council reconvened at 10:35am.

Media and Communications

Bishop Wright recognized Mr. Don Plummer, Community and Media Relations Coordinator for the Diocese, who gave a report on Media and Communications.

Clergy and Parish Anniversaries

Bishop Wright announced clergy ordination and parish anniversaries.

10 years: The Rev. Edwin Beckham, The Rev. Robert Book, The Rev. Hugh Grant,
The Rev. John Herring, The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, The Rev. Nikki Mathis,
The Rev. Dennis Patterson, The Rev. Lee Peyton

15 years: The Rev. Ricardo Bailey, The Rev. Elisa Harres, The Rev. Rita Henault,
The Rev. Jeff Jackson, The Rev. Anne Meroney, The Rev. Anne Elizabeth Swiedler

25 years: The Rev. Hazel Glover, The Rev. Nan Kennedy, The Rev. Stan Lanier,
The Rev. Nancy Shepard, The Rev. Ken Struble, Deacon John Titus,
Deacon Charlie Gearing

30 years: The Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander

35 years: The Very Rev. Sam Candler, The Rev. Robert Dendtler, The Rev. Chuck Girardeau,
The Rev. Eloise Hally, The Rev. Gene Paradise, The Rev. William Shepard, The Rev.
Percy J. Woodall

40 years: The Rev. Martin Bagay, The Rev. John Brewster, The Rev. J. Gary Mull

45 years: The Rev. Newell Anderson, The Rev. Louis Scheuddig

50 years: The Rev. Peter Courtney, The Rev. Robert Gibson, The Rev. Don Harrison,
The Rev. Gray Temple

60 years: The Rev. Louis Tonsmeire

Parish Anniversaries: (celebrated this year):

St. Thomas, Columbus: 60th anniversary

St. James, Clayton: 60th anniversary
St. Edward's, Lawrenceville: 50th anniversary
St. Gabriel's, Oakwood: 20th Anniversary

Noonday prayers and recess for lunch

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

Bishop Wright offered grace before for lunch.

The Council was recessed for lunch at 11:35 a.m.

Bishop Wright reconvened the Council at 1:05 p.m.

Reports

After a video on The University of the South, Bishop Wright recognized The Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander, who reported on the School of Theology's Capital Campaign.

Bishop Wright called on Mr. Bruce Garner (All Saints, Atlanta) and The Rev. Horace Griffin (St. Luke's, Atlanta), who presented a report for the Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and the SOAP project.

Bishop Wright called on Ms. Lindsey Hardegree, who gave a report on the Episcopal Community Foundation, followed by a video on the Red Door Pantry.

Bishop Wright called on Katherine Branch from Greengate, who presented on communications and *Pathways* magazine.

Bishop Wright called on Julie Groce, Lay Missioner for Appleton Episcopal Ministries, who gave a report on Appleton's Thanksgiving appeal.

Bishop Wright introduced a video on Church of the Common Ground, and called upon The Rev. Monica Mainwaring, Vicar, who delivered a report on the mission.

Bishop Wright called on The Rev. Dr. Sharon Hiers, who delivered a report on the history of lynching of African Americans in Georgia, and the unveiling of a monument at the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in memory of the 634 lynched in Georgia.

Council recessed for Committee Meetings

Bishop Wright recognized The Chair of Dispatch of Business, who gave instructions about Committee Meetings and Service Project.

Bishop Wright recessed the Council for legislative committee meetings at 1:50 p.m.

COUNCIL IN RECESS

Council Eucharist

Council gathered at 4:00 pm for Eucharist in the nave at Holy Innocents' (Atlanta). The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, preached, and Bishop Wright celebrated. The offering was designated for the The Boyce L. Ansley School at St. Luke's, Atlanta.

The Council service project commenced at approximately 6:00 pm.

SECOND DAY: NOVEMBER 10, 2018

At 8:00 am, Bishop Wright and Presiding Bishop Curry facilitated a question and answer session in the cafeteria of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School.

Bishop Wright convened the Council at 10:00 am.

Diocesan Youth led morning worship until 10:30 am, after which The Very Rev. Licia Afer informed that the North Atlanta Convocation had purchased a goat from ERD in the name of Presiding Bishop Curry, in thanksgiving for his ministry among us and at Council.

Presiding Bishop Curry offered a blessing to Council as he departed.

Reports, Awards and Presentations

Bishop Wright called on Mr. Mike McAuliffe to give a report on the operations of Mikell Camp and Conference Center.

Bishop Wright introduced a video on Diocesan Youth Development.

Bishop Wright announced the recipients of the Bishop's Cross, by convocation:

Georgia Mountains Convocation

Ms. Ginny Heckel

Oconee Convocation

Ms. Agnes Parker

Chattahoochee Valley Convocation

The Rev. Deacon Jane Dorman (in memory)

North Atlanta Convocation

Mr. Luis A. Ottley

Southwest Atlanta Convocation

Ms. Diane Campbell

Mid Atlanta Convocation

Ms. Eva Bird

East Atlanta Convocation:

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo

Northwest Georgia Convocation
Ms. Peggy Nase

Middle Georgia Convocation
The Rev. Joseph Shippen

Northeast Metro Convocation
Ms. Kathy Malcolm Hall

Marietta Convocation
Mr. Horace Higgins

Legislative agenda

Bishop Wright called on the Chair of the Dispatch of Business for reports from legislative committees. The reports were made as shown.

Constitution and Canons: Tom Christopher, Esq., Chair, moved adoption of Resolution C18-1, reading as follows:

C18-1 Procedure For Securing Approval Of Encumbrances Of Parish Property

Resolved, that the Canons of the Diocese of Atlanta be amended to add as Canon 41 the following:

CANON 41

Pursuant to Canon 1.7.3 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the following regulations are prescribed by this Diocese:

(a) A vestry or other body of the Parish authorized to hold, manage, or administer real property (“Church Real Property”) for a Parish, Mission, Congregation or Institution (“Authorized Body”), may, without the necessity of obtaining further approval of the Bishop or Standing Committee of the Diocese, encumber or alienate Church Real Property or a part thereof, only as follows:

- (1) Granting another person or entity a right to use Church Real Property for a period of less than 12 months when that grant is revocable, without cause shown, notice or penalty;
- (2) Renting or otherwise granting permission for use of Church Real Property for a total of seven or less days in any one calendar year, limited to single year grants; or
- (3) Granting permission to charitable or other not-for-profit entities to use Church Real Property, other than the principal worship space, for no more than one day per week, provided that the Authorized Body retains the unrestricted right to cancel such permission without penalty on no more than 30 days’ notice.

(b) Any other encumbrance or alienation of part or all of Church Real Property shall require the written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee, but the Bishop or Standing Committee may delegate the authority to grant such consent to the Bishop of Atlanta or the Canon to the Ordinary under the following circumstances:

- (1) Where the encumbrance or alienation is for a maximum of one year;
- (2) Where residential or commercial property of the Parish is being rented for a maximum of three years; or
- (3) For construction and installation of utilities.

Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the general oversight of a parish by the Bishop of Atlanta or other ecclesiastical authority or to restrict the authority of the Bishop or other ecclesiastical authority to provide pastoral direction to a parish regarding its use of its property.

Any written consent required by Canon 1.7.3 or this Canon may be provided by electronic means.

After parliamentary debate, motion carried. Resolution C18-1 adopted

Community Ministries: The Rev. Jane Weston, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R18-1, as amended in committee, reading as follows:

R18-1 Resolution to dissolve the Commission on HIV/AIDS

Whereas the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to claim the health and lives of thousands of our kindred in Christ, even after more than 36 years since it was first identified as a health problem;

Whereas the Diocese of Atlanta created a Task Force on AIDS in March of 1986 to help address the multitude of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS, in doing so thinking that the disease would have been eradicated and said task force could be dissolved;

Whereas over a number of years the Task Force on AIDS morphed into the Commission on HIV/AIDS and continued to address the situation within the church and society for many years and reflected the existence of similar structures at the Provincial and church-wide level of The Episcopal Church;

Whereas The Episcopal Church ended church-wide ministry related to HIV/AIDS at the General Convention of 2015, bringing to an end a ministry that began in February 1987 in Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, California, attended by two representatives from the Diocese of Atlanta;

Whereas the Diocese of Atlanta provided financial and leadership support for the Annual HIV/AIDS Retreat of Province IV of The Episcopal Church, held at Kanuga Conferences for all of the 25 years of its existence until that retreat ended in June 2016; and

Whereas the lack of a coordinated, comprehensive ministry regarding HIV/AIDS no longer exists for any practical purposes in the Diocese of Atlanta.

Resolved that the Commission on HIV/AIDS of the Diocese of Atlanta be dissolved at this 112th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta. And be it further

Resolved that funds for this ministry be removed from the annual budget of the diocese and any materials suitable for archival preservation be given to the diocese. And be it further

Resolved that Ms. Lola Thomas of Ascension Church in Cartersville, Georgia, be commended for her leadership in chairing the planning committee for the Kanuga Retreat for over a decade. And be it further

Resolved that Mr. Bruce Garner of All Saints' Church in Atlanta, Georgia be commended for his tireless leadership in AIDS/HIV ministry at the national, provincial and local level.

Motion carried. Resolution 18-1 adopted as amended

Community Ministries: The Rev. Jane Weston, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R18-2, as amended in committee, reading as follows:

R18-2 Resolution Concerning Prejudiced-Based Violence and Social Media

Resolved, the 112th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting at Holy Innocents Episcopal School, November 9 & 10, 2018, note with great concern recent acts of violence committed on the basis of prejudice because of religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ethnicity, country of origin and political opinion. And be it further

Resolved, that we recognize the negative impact on human relations the use and misuse of social media has created in our church and in our society. And be it further

Resolved, that we, as members of a faith community whose members regularly take vows to respect the dignity of every human being and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves, recommit ourselves to those vows especially following these acts of violence that have threatened, injured and killed many of God's children. And be it further

Resolved, that we offer our prayers and concerns for the victims of violence in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, the District of Columbia and the other locations where these acts took place. And be it further

Resolved, that we will, as individuals, strive to avoid the use of inflammatory, divisive, abusive, derogatory, anti-Semitic, homophobic, sexist, transphobic, xenophobic and other hurtful and negative terminology when referring to any of the children of God on social media platforms. And be it further

Resolved, that we as a community of faith will renew and strengthen our efforts toward building that Beloved Community where all of God's people live in love and harmony with each other, regardless of our differences. And be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Annual Council shall be directed to send electronic copies of this resolution to the Governor of Georgia, the Governor-elect of Georgia, the Secretary of State of Georgia, to our United States Senators, the members of the United States House of Representatives whose constituents are within the boundaries of the Diocese of Atlanta, and to the Vice President and President of the United States.

Motion carried. Resolution R18-2 adopted as amended.

Presentation of Diocesan Proposed Draft Budget for 2018

Dispatch of Business called on Les Callahan, Chair of the Committee on Finance, for Budget presentation and vote.

The Chair of the Dispatch of Business called on Mr. Les Callahan, Chair of the Department of Finance, who moved that the Proposed Draft Budget for 2019 be adopted in principle and be referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for final action.

Motion carried. Draft Budget referred to Executive Board

The Chair of Dispatch of Business announced the end of the legislative session.

Place and date of 11th Annual Council

Bishop Wright recognized The Very Rev. David Probst, St. Stephen's, Milledgeville, for a Report on the Committee on Annual Council, who informed that the 113th Annual Council would be hosted by the Middle Georgia Convocation on November 8-9, 2019, in Perry, Georgia.

Report and Resolutions of Memorials and Courtesy Committee

The Rev. Chris Miller, Chair, moved the following resolutions that were seconded.

R18-3 Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions

Be it Resolved, that this 112th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta expresses its profound appreciation and gratitude to the Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, the Most Reverend Michael C. Curry, for his presence and delivering a passionate sermon which calls us all to be living WITNESSES of Jesus Christ within the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement; and

Let it be Resolved, that we express our greetings and gratitude to the Rt. Rev'd Neil Alexander; and

Let it be Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev'd Robert C. Wright, Tenth Bishop of Atlanta, who continues to inspire each of us, in the call "to challenge... the world to love like Jesus;" and

Let it be further Resolved, that we extend our thanks to the Rt. Rev'd Don Wimberly and the Rt. Rev'd Paul Lambert for their dedicated and faithful leadership and service to our diocese.

Be it Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Dean, clergy, and people of the North Atlanta Convocation for hosting Annual Council, the Clergy, Staff, and Parishioners of Holy Innocence Episcopal Church and School, along with an expression of gratitude to the Diocesan Staff, Chancellor, and Officers that made this Annual Council possible.

Be it resolved, that we send our appreciation and prayers to clergy who have retired; and

Let it be Resolved, that we express our appreciation for the faithful clergy and laity who devoutly love, care, and serve Jesus Christ in parishes and worshipping communities throughout the Diocese of Atlanta.

Be it resolved, that we received the letters dimissory and welcome the following clergy: Bill Murray, Angela Shepherd, and Monica Mainwaring; and

Let it be resolved, that we commend the following clergy to ministries in other dioceses: Gretchen Ratteree, Daniel Dice, and Debbie Shew.

Be it resolved, that we remember those in this country who have lost their lives by an act of violence. We pray for those who have died, those who are impacted by their deaths, and for those who committed these acts. May we do the work to create communities where we follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every person; and

Let it be resolved, that on this Veteran's Day Weekend, we remember those who have served and continue to serve our Country at home and abroad in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Be it Resolved, that we remember those who have participated in Council and died in the past year, especially, Suzanne Black, Noel Burtenshaw, Jane Dorman, John Ford, J. Chester Gray, John Hall, Richard Hall, Thurmond "Berry" Rainwater, Evelyn Rowland, Hugh Sausey, Bert Smith, and Jean Temple.

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; the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor; the Chair of the Dispatch of Business; the Bishop's Staff and Communications Team; the Budget and Finance Committee and all who worked on the 2019 Mission and Ministry Budget; all who led worship and music; and the hosting North Atlanta Convocation, its clergy, staff, musicians, and volunteers, and Holy Innocent' School and Parish for their hospitality, and the youth who led the morning's music and all who helped with the lock-in.

Bishop Wright introduced a video on the Prayer of St. Teresa.

Bishop Wright adjourned the Council *sine die* at 11:51a.m.

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

Submitted by The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, Secretary