



## DIOCESE of ATLANTA

*The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia*  
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MINUTES of the 113th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, November 22 and 23, 2019.

The 113th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met at Edgar Wilson Convention Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Middle Georgia Convocation was the host.

### **FIRST DAY: NOVEMBER 22, 2019**

Registration began at 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist commenced at 9:00 am, with The Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe of the Diocese of Cape Coast as preacher, and the offering being collected for the Diocese of Cape Coast.

#### **Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business**

At 11:05 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 two parishes that had not registered, and that all parishes were deemed to be in compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 and entitled to vote by the Bishop's declaration of a "Jubilee Year." The Council was organized for business.

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

The Rev. Kim Jackson, Interim Rector of the Church of the Common Ground, 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 112th Council**

Bishop Wright called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 112th 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.

The Bishop invited Bishop Atta-Baffoe to join the Chair and Officers on the dais.

### **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 Council legislative committee for deliberation (none were proposed from the floor):

- **R19-01** Resolution Regarding Anti-Discrimination (Community Ministries)
- **R19-02** Resolution to Celebrate and Recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Appleton Episcopal Ministries (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, Clergy Trustee of The University of the South, Sewanee, and Deputies to General Convention. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Wright declared the nominations closed.

Bishop Wright announced the election of the following nominees without opposition.

*Board of Governors, Mikell Camp and Conference Center:*

Elaine Morgan (Holy Innocents, Atlanta)  
Michael Smith (Christ Church, Macon)

*Trustee of the University of the South, Sewanee, clergy*

The Rev. Bonnie Underwood (All Saints, Warner Robins)

The Chief Teller instructed the Council on balloting procedure. Ballots were distributed for elections for Standing Committee (clergy and lay) and Deputies and Alternate Deputies to General Convention (clergy and lay). Ballots were cast and elections declared throughout the morning and afternoon of Friday, November 23. All elections were concluded at 2:50 pm, and the results are recorded below.

### **First Ballots Cast**

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

*Standing Committee, Lay, elect one (Ballot 1)*

Karl Sachsenmaier, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta  
Richard Shunnarah, Holy Innocents, Atlanta

*Standing Committee, Clergy, elect one (Ballot 2)*

The Rev. Grady J. "Buddy" Crawford, Jr., (Holy Innocents', Atlanta)  
The Rev. Paul McCabe, (Church of the Annunciation, Marietta)  
The Rev. Warren Simmons, (St. Aidan's, Milton)

*Lay Deputy, General Convention (elect four) (Ballot 3)*

- James C. Cartwright, Holy Spirit, Cumming
- Mary Caroline D. Cravens, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- Derek Demmler, Grace, Gainesville
- Bruce Garner, All Saints', Atlanta
- LaFawn A. Gilliam, St. Luke's, Atlanta
- Lindsey Hardegree, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- Tammy Pallot, St. Francis, Macon
- Beth King, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- Angela Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven

*Clergy Deputy, General Convention (elect four) (Ballot 4)*

- The Rev. Roger D. Allen, St. James, Marietta
- The Very Rev. Sam G. Candler, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- The Rev. Sarah Fisher, St. Catherine's, Marietta
- The Rev. Lauren Holder, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- The Venerable Carole Maddux, Diocese of Atlanta
- The Rev. Monica Mainwaring, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven
- The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park, Grace, Gainesville
- The Rev. Warren R. Simmons, St. Aidan's, Milton

**Results of First Ballots**

Bishop Wright announced the following persons were elected:

*Standing Committee, Clergy,*

The Rev. Grady J. "Buddy" Crawford, Jr., (Holy Innocents', Atlanta)

*Standing Committee, Lay,*

Karl Sachsenmaier, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

*Lay Deputy, General Convention (in order of election)*

- LaFawn A. Gilliam, St. Luke's, Atlanta
- Tammy Pallot, St. Francis, Macon
- Beth King, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

*Clergy Deputy, General Convention (in order of election)*

- The Very Rev. Sam G. Candler, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta (*tie*)
- The Rev. Sarah Fisher, St. Catherine's, Marietta (*tie*)
- The Rev. Lauren Holder, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- The Venerable Carole Maddux, Diocese of Atlanta

**Second Ballot Cast**

A ballot was cast for the remaining vacancy in the election of Lay Deputy, General Convention from among the persons shown.

*Lay Deputy, General Convention (Ballot 6)*

- Mary Caroline D. Cravens, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

- Lindsey Hardegree, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

### **Results of Second Ballot**

Bishop Wright announced the following person was elected:

#### *Lay Deputy, General Convention*

- Lindsey Hardegree, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

### **Third Ballots Cast**

Ballots were cast in the election of Alternate Deputies for General Convention, clergy and lay, among the persons shown.

#### *Clergy Alternate Deputy, General Convention (elect four) (Ballot 7)*

- The Rev. Roger D. Allen, St. James, Marietta
- The Rev. Monica Mainwaring, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven
- The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park, Grace, Gainesville
- The Rev. Warren R. Simmons, St. Aidan's, Milton

#### *Lay Alternate Deputy, General Convention (elect 4) (Ballot 8)*

- James C. Cartwright, Holy Spirit, Cumming
- Mary Caroline D. Cravens, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- Derek Demmler, Grace, Gainesville
- Bruce Garner, All Saints', Atlanta
- Angela Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven

### **Results of Third Ballots**

Bishop Wright announced that the following persons were elected:

#### *Clergy Alternate Deputy, General Convention (in order of election)*

- The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park, Grace, Gainesville
- The Rev. Monica Mainwaring, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven
- The Rev. Warren R. Simmons, St. Aidan's, Milton
- The Rev. Roger D. Allen, St. James, Marietta

#### *Lay Alternate Deputy, General Convention (in order of election)*

- Mary Caroline D. Cravens, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- James C. Cartwright, Holy Spirit, Cumming (tie)
- Derek Demmler, Grace, Gainesville (tie)
- Angela Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven

### **Elections to Diocesan Board of Review**

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, Deacon John Ray (Holy Comforter, Atlanta) for a five-year term, and Joy Jones (St. Paul's Atlanta) for a four-year term.

### **Elections of Diocesan Officers**

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, the following Diocesan Officers: *Chancellor*, Thomas Christopher, Esq.; *Chancellor Emeritus*, Richard Perry, Esq.; *Secretary*, The Very Rev. P. Richard Game; *Treasurer*, Peggy Haskell-Farnham; *Registrar*, Richard Perry, Esq.

### **Committee appointments**

Bishop Wright appointed the following to the Committee on Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions: The Rev. Carolynne Williams (Chair); The Rev. Letty Guevera-Cuencas, Christ Church, Norcross; The Rev. Fabio Sotelo (San Bedas y San Eduardo); Jacob Struble (Youth Delegate); Ms. Sue Davy.

### **Report of Canon 20 Compliance Committee**

The Rev. Scott Kidd (Church of the Resurrection, Sautee-Nacoochee), Chair of the Canon 20 Appeals Board, reported on parishes' compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 for support of the Diocese's mission and ministry: ten parishes appealed non-compliance (compared to thirteen in 2018). Granted in appeals: \$92,949 (compared to \$155,678 in 2018).

### **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." The Bishop noted with thanks Mr. King's ten years of service as Treasurer.

Mr. Les Callahan, Chair of the Diocesan Committee on Finance, presented the Proposed Draft Mission and Ministry Budget for 2020, 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 2020.

### **Other Reports**

A video on the Friendship Center at Holy Comforter, Atlanta, was shown.

Bishop Wright announced clergy ordination and parish anniversaries.

The Rev. Deborah Silver reported on updated Safeguarding God's Children policies and the work of a Safeguarding Task Force.

### **Noonday prayers and recess for lunch**

Janet Patterson, Chair of the Diocesan Annual Council Committee, gave instructions on going to lunch. The Bishop offered noonday prayer and announced a recess at 12:10 pm.

Bishop Wright reconvened the Council at 1:20 p.m.

### **Congregational Vitality**

Sally Ulrey, Diocesan Staff, and Joan Curtis, Vitality Action Team, gave a presentation on Congregational Vitality offerings of the Diocese.

### **The Bishop's Address**

At 2:06, after a video on “We Worship Joyfully,” the theme for Council, the Bishop offered his address to Council. The Bishop concluded his address at 2:29pm.

### **Other Reports**

The Bishop recognized The Rev. Dr. Donna Mote, who reported on the Diocese’s relationship with the Diocese of Cuba.

After a video highlighting Camp Mikell, The Bishop recognized The Rev. Ken Struble, who announced the Camp Mikell Capital Campaign.

The Bishop recognized Julie Groce, Lay Missioner of Appleton Episcopal Ministries, who gave a report on Appleton’s Thanksgiving appeal and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

A video on Episcopal Community Foundation was shown.

### **Council recessed for Committee Meetings**

Bishop Wright recognized The Chair of Dispatch of Business, who gave instructions about Committee Meetings, and the Service Project that would commence at 5pm.

Bishop Wright recessed the Council for legislative committee meetings at 3:19 p.m.

## **COUNCIL IN RECESS**

### **SECOND DAY: NOVEMBER 23, 2019**

Bishop Wright convened the Council at 9:00 am.

Diocesan Youth led morning worship until 9:42, after which a video was shown about *Revive Atlanta*, a diocesan revival event scheduled for January 2020. The Bishop recognized The Rev. Zack Nyein (All Saints, Atlanta) and Ms. Mary Hooper, who reported on *Revive Atlanta*.

### **Reports, Awards and Presentations**

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

Vicky Partin, *Chattahoochee Valley Convocation*  
The Rev. Deborah Silver, *East Atlanta Convocation*  
Mallory Nonnemaker, *Georgia Mountains Convocation*  
The Rev. Ramon Betances, *Marietta Convocation*  
The Rev. Cathy Zappa, *Mid-Atlanta Convocation*  
Deacon Janet Tidwell, *Middle Georgia Convocation*  
Glenna Smith, *North Atlanta Convocation*  
Darcey Tatum, *Northeast Metro Convocation*  
Brenda Ayers Otting, *Northwest Georgia Convocation*  
David Stooksbury, *Oconee Convocation*  
Maria Smith, *Southwest Atlanta Convocation*

The Bishop recognized and thanked the following individuals for service to the Diocese:  
Bennie King: 10 years as Treasurer of the Diocese  
Ieasha Reed: 20 years of service on Diocesan Staff and 10 on staff of The Episcopal Church  
Richard Perry: 50+ years of service as a “Churchman” in the Diocese, as Lay Delegate,  
Lay Deputy to General Convention, and Chancellor

### **Legislative agenda**

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

**Community Ministries:** The Rev. Jane Weston, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R19-1, reading as follows:

#### **R19-1 Resolution Concerning Anti-discrimination**

Resolved, the Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in Macon, Georgia, November 22 and 23, 2019 notes with concern that the State of Georgia does not presently have any legal protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; and be it further

Resolved, that such legal protections are necessary to insure equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender residents of the State of Georgia in the areas of housing, employment, health care access, public accommodations and numerous other aspects of daily life; and be it further

Resolved, that the vows of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being points us toward insuring that all of us should be able to live our lives free of such forms of discrimination; and be it further

Resolved that this Council urge the Legislature of the State of Georgia to enact legislation that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and urges the Governor of Georgia to sign such legislation into law; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Annual Council shall be directed to send copies of this resolution to the Governor of Georgia, the Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Georgia.

Submitted by: Bruce Garner, Chair, Commission on LGBTQ+ Ministry, Diocese of Atlanta

**Motion carried. Resolution C19-1 adopted**

**Community Ministries:** The Rev. Jane Weston, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R19-2, as amended in committee, reading as follows:

#### **R19-2 Resolution to Celebrate and Recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Appleton Episcopal Ministries**

RESOLVED this 113th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Appleton Episcopal Ministries, known first as The Appleton Church Home and



later as Appleton Family Ministries, and commends the excellent work of Appleton in serving children and families in middle Georgia.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Council remind all parishes in the Diocese to recognize this significant anniversary with a particularly generous Thanksgiving offering in accordance with Canon 24.

**Motion carried. Resolution R19-2 adopted as amended.**

### **Presentation of Diocesan Proposed Draft Budget for 2020**

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 2020 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.

### **Covenant with the Diocese of Cape Coast**

The Bishop and Bishop Atta-Baffoe signed a Covenant establishing a relationship between the Diocese and the Diocese of Cape Coast. The House expressed support for the Covenant by voice acclamation.

### **Place and date of 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Council**

Bishop Wright recognized The Very Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards, St. Thomas', Columbus, for a Report on the Committee on Annual Council, who informed that the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Council would be hosted by the Chattahoochee Convocation on November 13-14, 2019.

### **Report and Resolutions of Memorials and Courtesy Committee**

The Rev. Carolynne Williams, Chair, moved the following resolutions that were seconded.

#### **R19-3 Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions**

*Be it Resolved*, that this 113<sup>th</sup> Council of the Diocese of Atlanta expresses its profound appreciation and gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana for his presence and delivering a sermon sharing with love and proud cultural presence of your country and the Anglican faith sustained by the values of a culture made under the fire of centuries of slavery, but growing in faith every day; 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. Don Wimberly and the Rt. Rev. 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 the people of the Middle Georgia Convocation for hosting Annual Council, the Clergy, along with an expression of gratitude to the Diocesan Staff, Chancellor, and Officers that made this Annual Council possible, also thanks to all the staff of Marriott and Edgar H. Wilson Convention Center.

*Be it resolved*, that we send our appreciation and prayers to clergy who have retired Ken Swanson and Beverly Elliot; 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 welcome the following clergy: Andrew “Andy” Barnett, Nathan Huddleston, Melissa Kean, William Matthews, Julia Mitchener, Jorge Rosa-Maldonado, Sarah Stewart, Kyle Stillings, Darius Sudayi; Roxane Gwyn and

*Let it be resolved*, that we commend the following clergy to ministries in other dioceses: Lorna Erixson, Charles Fischer III, Andrew Austin McGehee, Wallace Marsh IV.

*Be it resolved*, that we remember those 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. We also want to elevate a prayer for refugees and those who had to flee their countries to any unknown destination to start a new life facing discrimination and hostilities, may God guide them and help them and receive the love and caring they need.

*Let it be resolved*, that God may heal the wounds created by ideological differences, creating separation in between our communities based on discrimination, intolerance, and violence.

*Let it be resolved*, to invite our communities to take , the coming Thanksgiving celebration as an invitation to join neighbors, friends as a family sharing the table in communion with our Baptismal Covenant and develop a Christian vocation of love and service.

*Be it Resolved*, that we remember those who have participated in Council and died in the past year, especially, ***The Right Rev. Bishop Frank Allan, Donald Steven Tate, William Lee Evans, Eddie Jackson Ard, Richard Peter Pocalyko, John Clarke Sanders, Sr., Leroy Soper, Corinne Crammer and deacons Lily Anne Rein and Elizabeth Grant-Hilton.***

We also remember ***Verger James Parks and John Andrews y William “Bill” Day***, who developed an incredible lay ministry in our diocese.

**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 2020 Mission and Ministry Budget; all who led worship and music; and the

hosting Middle Georgia Convocation, its clergy, staff, musicians, and volunteers; the youth who led the morning's music and all who helped with the lock-in; and the vergers and tellers.

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

Bishop Wright adjourned the Council *sine die* at 11:00 a.m.

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

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