



MINUTES

105th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta

First Session: November 4 and 5, 2011, in Rome, Georgia

Second Session: June 2, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia

The 105th Annual Council met in The Forum in Rome, Georgia, on November 4th and 5th, 2011. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, the Ninth Bishop Diocesan, was in the Chair. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, the Assistant Bishop, was present. The Northwest Convocation, Dean, the Very Rev. Janice Bracken Wright, was the host.

FIRST DAY

Friday, November 4, 2011

Registration of Clerical Members and Lay Delegates began at 8:30 a.m.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

Following prayer, the Presiding Officer, Bishop Diocesan Alexander, called the Council to order at 10:00 a.m. The Secretary, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, announced that a quorum was present, based on registrations. He reported that two small parishes did not have representation present, and that four parishes were not in compliance with Diocesan Canon 20. The Council was organized for business.

Admission of Church of the Common Ground to Council

On motion by The Rev. Daniel Matthews Jr., St. Luke's, Atlanta, and seconded, the Council admitted the Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta, as a worshipping community with one Lay Delegate to this Council.

Rulings from the Chair concerning election of the tenth Bishop Diocesan

Bishop Alexander ruled: The election of the tenth Bishop Diocesan will be on the third day of this Council in the Cathedral in Atlanta on June 2nd, 2012. A Lay Delegate elected to this Annual Council will be a Lay Delegate to the June 2012 session even if replaced by an Alternate Lay Delegate at this session. A Lay Delegate unable to attend the second session may be replaced as prescribed in the canons. Diocesan Canon 20 restrictions will be suspended, and all parishes' Lay Delegates and Clerical Members can vote. The rulings from the Chair were not contested.

On motion, the Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the 104th Annual Council and approved them as published on the diocesan internet web site. [Note by the Secretary: Correct the spelling of name of Ms. Ginny Henkle to Ms. Ginny Heckel.]

Agenda adopted

On motion, the Council adopted the agenda as printed and distributed to the Council.

Announcements and introductions

The Very Rev. Janice Bracken Wright, Northwest Convocation Dean, and Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of the Annual Council Committee, welcomed the Council to Rome, Georgia.

Bishop Alexander recognized first-time Lay Delegates and Clerical Members to the Council.

Bishop Alexander introduced the persons at the *praesidium*: The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop; Richard P. Perry, Esq., Chancellor and Parliamentarian; Thomas Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor; The Very Rev. Hazel S. Glover, Dispatch of Business, the Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary; The Rev. Timothy H. Graham, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Marianne Joris, Recording Secretary. The Very Rev. Hazel Glover, Dispatch of Business, set forth procedures for the dispatch of business of the Council.

Introduction of Resolutions

Bishop Alexander announced the introduction of the following prefiled resolutions that have been numbered by the Secretary, printed, and distributed to the Council. He assigned them to the legislative committees as shown.

C11-1, Amend Constitution Article 2, Campus Ministries' Lay Delegates, second reading, from Commission on Higher Education, to Constitution and Canons

R11-1, Suicide Prevention, from The Rev. Robert G. Certain, St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta, to Christian Faith Formation

R11-2, State of Georgia HB 87 Concerning Immigrants' Status, from The Rev. C. Christopher Starr, Atonement, Sandy Springs, to Hispanic Ministries

R11-3, Parental Leave, from Task Force on Parental Leave, to Policy and Benefits,

R11-4, Impact of Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011, from Episcopal Charities Foundation Board of Directors, to Hispanic Ministries

R11-5, Denominational Health Plan Reporting, The Rev. Michael R. Sullivan, Holy Innocents', Atlanta, to Policy and Benefits.

R11-6, Call for Halt to Death Penalty in Georgia, from The Rev. Debra M. Shew, Canon for Community Ministries, The Rev. Kimberly Jackson, Absalom Jones Chapel, Atlanta, and The Rev Joseph Shippen, St. James', Macon, to Community Ministries

R11-7, Committee of Discernment Concerning Pelagius, from The Rev. Benno D. Pattison, Epiphany, Atlanta, to Spiritual Growth

R11-8, Opposition to Human Trafficking, from The Rev. Maggie Harney, Chair of Task Force on Human Trafficking, to Community Ministries

The Rev. T. Mc. Thigpen, St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta moved a resolution, Diocesan Commitment to the Church of the Common Ground in Atlanta. It was seconded, numbered R11-9, and referred to Community Ministries Committee.

Bishop Alexander appointed Mr. Karl Sachsenmaier as Chief Teller, who outlined voting procedures. Vergers from the Diocesan Verger Guild served as Tellers.

First ballot taken

There were no nominations from the floor. These persons were unopposed and declared elected: *Sewanee, University of the South Trustee*: Stephen Burnett, St. Luke's, Atlanta.

Mikell Camp and Conference Center Governor: Lauren Logan Benedict, St. Paul's, Macon, and Dan Murphy, Epiphany, Atlanta.

A ballot was taken for the following offices from the prefilled nominees shown.

Standing Committee Lay Member: Bruce Garner, All Saints', Atlanta, and Columbus Ward Jr., Emmaus House, Atlanta

Standing Committee Priest Member: Patricia M. Grace, St. Mark's, Dalton, and Lee Payton, St. Andrew's, Hartwell.

Appleton Family Ministries, Board Member: Roger Lamb, St. Clement's, Canton; Anne Meroney, Nonparochial, Macon; and Patricia Barfield, Christ Church, Macon.

Announcement of clergy changes

Bishop Alexander announced the following changes of status of diocesan clergy:

New Clerical Member of Council: The Rev. Ken Swanson, Rector, St. David's, Roswell, from the Diocese of Tennessee.

Retired since last Council: Presbyters Roger H. Ard, Frederick L. Jones, Robert Michael Owens, and Gene H. Paradise (licensed from the Diocese of Georgia) .

Died since last Council: Presbyters John B. Morris and Edward B. Hanson and Deacon Ann Riley Hackett.

Deacons ordained Presbyter since last Council: Joshua Bowron, Diocese of North Carolina; Antonio Brio, St. David's, Roswell; Lorna Erixson, St. Thomas', Columbus; Dorothea Littlepage, Diocese of Massachusetts; Richard G. Proctor, Diocese of Maryland; Zachary R. Thompson, St. James', Cedartown; David Wagner, Diocese of Upper South Carolina; and Ben Wells, St. Francis', Macon.

Candidates ordained "transitional" Deacon since the last Council: Daniel S. Dice, Stephen C. Holton, Brandon B. Peete, and W. Burley S. Salmon.

Candidates ordained Deacon since the last Council: Nora Cruz-Diaz, Lesley-Ann Drake, Katherine Hilliard-Yntema, Elizabeth Grant Hilton, Kent Christopher Lemley, Nadine Karen Pope, Juan Sandoval, Janet Ruth Tidwell, Arthur Villarreal, Barbara Sewell Windom, and Rick Wynn Wright.

Election to Diocesan Disciplinary Board

Bishop Alexander nominated and the Council elected to the Disciplinary Board these members with term beginning January 1st, 2012.

Clerical Member: The Rev. P. Richard Game, St. Patrick's, Atlanta, to a five year term ending December 31st, 2016.

Lay Member: Ms. Sherry Wade, St. Thomas', Columbus, to a four year term ending December 31st, 2015.

Election of Diocesan Officers

Bishop Alexander nominated and the Council elected these Diocesan Officers.

Chancellor: Richard P. Perry, Esq.

Vice Chancellor: Thomas Christopher, Esq.

Secretary: The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson

Assistant Secretary: The Rev. Timothy H. Graham

Treasurer: Mr. Bennie King

Reports from Diocesan Committees and Commissions

These oral reports were made to the Council.

Episcopal Charities Foundation: Ms. Ginny Heckel, Chair

Nominating Committee for Bishop Diocesan: Ms. Robin Schreiber, Chair

Transition Committee for Bishop Diocesan: The Rev. Patricia D. Templeton, Chair

Recycling: Mr. Andrew Lane

Commission on Environmental Stewardship: Mr. Stan Meiburg

Proposed amendments to the Constitution of TEC; Bishop Alexander directed the attention of the Council to three proposed amendments to the Constitution of TEC, printed and distributed to Council. Article XII of the Constitution requires they be "read" (presented) to each diocesan convention (Council) before the General Convention convenes in 2012.

PANDA: Ms. Ivory Richardson, President

Commission on Human Trafficking: The Rev. Maggie Harney, Chair, with a Power Point presentation

Results of first (and only) ballot

Bishop Alexander announced the election of these persons to the offices shown.

Standing Committee Lay Member: Mr. Columbus Ward Jr., Emmaus House, Atlanta

Standing Committee Priest Member: The Rev. Patricia M. Grace, St. Mark's, Dalton

Appleton Family Ministries Governor. The Rev. Anne Meroney, nonparochial, Macon, and Ms. Patricia Barfield, Christ Church, Macon.

Recognition of significant anniversaries

Major Parish Anniversaries:

One Hundred Twenty-five years: St. Matthias', Toccoa;

Seventy years: St. Alban's, Elberton;

Fifty years: St. Bede's, Atlanta; St. Catherine's, Marietta; Transfiguration, Rome;

Twenty-five years, Holy Family, Jasper.

Major Ordination as Priest Anniversaries:.

Fifty years, The Rev. Delmas Hare and The Rev. Aurel Muntean;

Forty Years, The Rev. Thomas Arledge, The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, The Rev. William Deneke, The Rev. Raleigh Hairston, The Rev. Gareth Harris.

Twenty-five years, The Rev. Monroe Freeman, The Rev. Charles Palmgren

The Rev. Zachary Thompson, St. James', Cedartown, led noon day prayers.

The Council was in recess from 12:00 m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Bishop convened the Council at 1:00 p.m. and gave the Bishop's Address. (A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Reports of Diocesan Committees and Commissions continued

Canon 20 Review Committee: The Rev. Douglas G. Dailey, Chair, reported on the progress of the Committee in reviewing status of parishes that have not given the agreed upon contribution to the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

Diocesan Finance Committee: Mr. Bennie King, Diocesan Treasurer, and Mr. Stephen Burnett, Chair of the Finance Committee submitted the report of the financial status of the Diocese. Mr. Burnett reported that the audit for 2010 had been received with a clean opinion.

Sewanee, the University of the South: Mr. Steve Burnett, Lay Trustee, reported on the status and activities of the University. He introduced the Very Rev. William Stafford, Dean of the School of Theology of the University, who addressed the Council.

Episcopal Church Women: Ms. Diane Burrows, Retiring President, reported on Diocesan ECW activities.

Task Force on Domestic Violence: The Rev. Pat Merchant, co-Chair, reported.

Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry: Ms. Vicki Partain reported

Holy Comforter Ministry: The Rev. Michael Tanner, Vicar, reported.

Kids for Peace: Ms. Rebecca Teal reported.

Appeal for support of The Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta

The Rev. Canon George Maxwell, Cathedral of St. Philip, appealed to the Council for financial support of The Church of The Common Ground. [This congregation is a recognized worshipping community in Atlanta that ministers to the homeless street people in the city. It has no building or property, and its Diocesan financial support is the compensation of the Vicar, The Rev. Mary Wetzel.] Canon Maxwell reported that five parishes have pledged a total of \$50,000, but that \$100,000 is needed and requested the members of Council to pledge the remaining amount. Representatives of several parishes pledged varying amounts that totaled \$68,700, resulting in a grand total of \$118,700 pledged for the congregation's support. A tabulation of the pledged amounts is attached to and made a part of these minutes. The Rev. Mary Wetzel, Vicar, thanked the Council for enabling this ministry to people on the margins of society to continue.

Recess and committee meetings

Bishop Alexander recessed the Council at 3:24 p.m. until 9:00 a.m., November 5th, 2011.

Council legislative committees met thereafter to consider matters before them.

SECOND DAY

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Bishop Alexander convened the Council at 9:00 a.m.

Reports of Diocesan Committees and Commissions continued

Disability Task Force: Mr. Adam Bush reported on its work.

Mslato Theological College: Ms. Magi Griffin reported on her work in Tanzania and the College.

Mikell Camp and Conference Center: The Rev. Ken Struble, Director, reported on the center's ministry.

Emmaus House: The Rev. Claiborne Jones, Director and Vicar, reported on Emmaus House's ministry.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew: Mr. Billy Harrison, President, addressed the Council on the work and ministry of the Brotherhood.

Treasurer: Mr. Bennie King, Diocesan Treasurer, reported on the new parish audit guidelines that the Finance Committee introduced. These guidelines are mandatory for all parishes for 2011 and after. He addressed issues that had arisen concerning the new policy

Nets for Life: Mr. Steve Smith, employed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Page Love Smith, member of the diocesan committee for Nets for Life, both from St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta, and Ms. Joy Shigaki of Episcopal Relief and Development, and The Rev. Debra Shew, diocesan ERD representative, reported on the Nets for Life project aiming to reduce incidence of malaria in Africa. Bishop Alexander has set a goal of 35,000 nets to be pledged for within the diocese by the 106th Annual Council.

Reports of Legislative Committees

Finance Committee: Mr. Steve Burnett, Chair, reported the Committee recommends that the draft of the proposed Diocesan Ministry and Mission Budget submitted to the Council be adopted by the Council and be sent to the Executive Board as Canon 20 prescribes.

Committee recommendation adopted

Constitution and Canons: Richard P. Perry, Esq., Chair reported on that all the requirements of Resolution C074s, Rescind Canon 41 Of the Cathedral Board of Trustees, adopted by the 101st Annual Council, have been met, and therefore in accordance with the fourth Resolve of the Resolution, Canon 41 Of the Cathedral Board of Trustees is deemed to have been rescinded and the canon number reserved for future use.

Mr. Perry reported the Committee recommends that Resolution C11-1, reading as follows, be adopted:

C11-1 Amend Article 2 of Constitution (second reading)

Resolved, that The Constitution of the Diocese of Atlanta, Article 2, section 2, paragraph (d), be amended to read as follows:

(d) Also, in addition to the foregoing, each of the campus ministries of the Diocese of Atlanta certified to the Secretary by the Commission on Ministry in Higher Education *as having an organized and recognized*

ministry among students as receiving financial support from the Diocese shall be represented at Diocesan Council by one *student Lay Delegate* with seat, voice, and vote.

Motion carried
Resolution C11-1 adopted

Christian Faith Formation: The Rev. Robert Certain, Chair, reported that the Committee recommends that Resolution R11-1 be adopted with Committee amendment to read as follows:

R11-1a Suicide Prevention

Resolved, That the 105th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta adopt and reaffirm the resolution on Suicide Prevention adopted by the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church:

1. We affirm our belief that, as St. Paul teaches (Romans 8:39), "Nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
2. We pledge ourselves to collaborate with other religious bodies and secular agencies in educating ourselves to recognize and minister more appropriately to those among us who are especially at risk of suicide as well as those who are impacted by the suicide of others; and
3. We urge that all levels of the Episcopal Church, parochial, diocesan, and national, accord high priority to the prevention of suicide in prayers and programming; and
4. We call on the Bishop of Atlanta to appoint a committee of the diocese to lead in accomplishing the collaboration called for above *and to report back their recommendations to the 106th Annual Council*; and
5. We urge the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to make Suicide Prevention a health priority for the ensuing triennium.

Motion carried
Resolution R11-1a adopted

Hispanic Ministries: The Rev. Christopher Starr, Chair, requested the Committee be discharged from consideration of R11-2 as it has been dealt with in Resolution R11-4.

Original text of R11-2: State of Georgia HB 87 Concerning Immigrants' Status

Resolved, that the 2011 Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, calls upon the United States Congress to act wisely, justly and with due speed to enact comprehensive immigration reforms; and be it further

Resolved, that the Governor remove any member of The Immigration Enforcement Review Board belonging to a hate group and appoint members better reflecting Georgia citizens; and be it further

Resolved, that the Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta continue to welcome this newest generation of immigrants; a people, like ourselves, of diverse lands and that all churches provide them sanctuary and hospitality and encourage all people of good will to the same.

Council discharged Committee from further consideration of R11-2

Commission on Special Policy and Benefits: The Rev. Michael Sullivan, Chair, reported the Committee recommends adoption of Resolution R11-3, reading as follows:

R11-3 Parental Leave

Resolved, in order to care for the well being of families of our employees in a spirit of generosity for the well being of our church staff, the Diocese of Atlanta, and parishes, institutions, and schools of the

Diocese, are commended to adopt the essential elements of the policy outlined below, as part of their employment practice, and, where applicable, employee handbooks, Letters of Agreement, and policies:

Employees needing leave for the birth or adoption of a child will address this need by application of the employer's Family and Medical Leave, Personal Leave, Short-Term Disability Leave and vacation policies.

The employer will provide to all eligible employees up to eight (8) weeks of paid Maternity/Paternity Leave due to the birth or adoption of the eligible employee's child. Maternity/Paternity Leave will normally be taken concurrently with any available Family and Medical Leave and Short-Term Disability Leave.

All eligible employees will also be provided with up to 4 additional weeks of unpaid leave beyond the 8 weeks of paid leave.

An otherwise eligible employee may add available Maternity/Paternity Leave to other paid leave in calculating the total amount of paid leave time that an employee may take in the event of an eligible maternity or paternity situation.

The Council debated the Resolution.

Motion Carried
Resolution R11-3 adopted

Hispanic Ministry: The Rev. Christopher Starr, Chair, reported that the Committee recommends Resolution R11-4 be adopted with Committee amendment to read as follows:

R11-4a Impact of Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011

Resolved, that the gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to welcome the stranger, the migrant, and the outcast; and

Resolved, that our baptismal covenant calls upon us to respect the dignity of every human being; and

Resolved, that with eight Hispanic parishes comprising more than a thousand souls as part of our diocesan community, we stand together to speak against Georgia House Bill 87; and

Resolved, that we recognize the chilling effect H.B. 87 has had on both the sacramental and outreach ministries of many of our parishes, on attendance at 12 step-programs, on needy families seeking aid from charitable organizations, and on the reporting of domestic abuse and other crimes while at the same time allowing for the seizure of legitimate green cards and for irreparable harm to families; and

Resolved, that we recognize the adverse effect the policy is having on farmers and their inability to harvest crops in a timely manner, causing crops to rot in the fields, contributing to a decline in food stocks, and corresponding rise in increased need at food pantries and feeding program; and

Resolved, that HB87 crates a situation that can violate constitutional protections afforded to all, such as profiling individuals, and putting citizens in the role of law enforcer; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta express to the Governor of Georgia and the legislative leadership at the state and federal levels via official letter its deep concern over emerging impacts of House Bill 87, titled "The Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011"; and be it further

Resolved, that the letter enjoin the Governor to appoint members to the Immigration Enforcement Review Board that more fully reflect the gender and ethnic diversity of the citizens of Georgia; and

Resolved, that this letter express its concern about and opposition to the unsubstantiated fear and growing hostility that increasing numbers of our fellow citizens of Georgia are inflicting upon other children of God who are living among us (both with and without proper legal permission), a fear and hostility which we believe to be enshrined in the law through our state government's passing of House Bill 87; and be it further

Resolved, that this letter explain that H.B. 87 has had an immediate deleterious effect on ministries to, for and with those in greatest need, including those supported by Episcopal Charities Foundation; and be it further

Resolved, that this letter state our belief, as Christians, that hospitality, compassion, and fair treatment to the stranger and the migrant is a greater moral compulsion and a greater societal good than is the desire to ensure documentation for every human being we encounter in our state. ~~and be it further~~
~~*Resolved*, that the Diocese of Atlanta send this letter also to the Lieutenant Governor, Casey Cagle, the Speaker of the House, David Ralston and the Majority and Minority Leaders of both houses of the Georgia General Assembly, and be it further~~

~~*Resolved*, that the Diocese of Atlanta invite all its parishes prayerfully to consider sending copies of the letter to the newspapers and/or other media outlets which serve their communities (making any such actions known to the Director of the Episcopal Charities Foundation) and that the Bishop of Atlanta appoint the Director and Board Chair of ECF, to handle, on behalf of this Council, all requested correspondence, making copies available on the ECF pages of the diocesan website.~~

The Council debated the resolution with amendment.

Motion carried
Resolution R11-4 adopted with amendment

Commission on Special Policy and Benefits The Rev. Michael Sullivan, Chair, reported the Committee recommends adoption of Resolution R11-5 with Committee amendment to read as follows:

R11-5a The Denominational Health Plan Reporting

Resolved, that congregations and schools within the Diocese of Atlanta report their specific plans to implement the Denominational Health Plan (DHP) to the Canon to the Ordinary (or equivalent office) of the Diocese by June 30, ~~3012~~ 2012.

Motion carried
Resolution R11-5 adopted with amendment

Community Ministries The Rev. Alan Sandlin, Chair, reported the Committee recommends adoption of Resolution R11-6 with Committee amendment to read as follows:

R11-6a Call for a Halt to the Death Penalty in Georgia

Resolved, that this 105th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta affirm its call for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the state of Georgia, doing so particularly in light of the recent execution of Troy Anthony Davis, which occurred in spite of significant doubt about his guilt; and be it further

Resolved, that this Council remind itself of the similar call for a moratorium by our General Convention, as well as its repeated statements of opposition to all capital punishment, and to make special note of its call to dioceses, parishes and individual Church members to: study the death penalty and reasons for Christian opposition to it; and work actively for the abolishment of its use in every instance, and be it further

Resolved, that this Resolution be communicated to ~~the Governor Nathan Deal~~, to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House as an expression of the Council's desire that legislation *abolishing the death penalty in Georgia* be reintroduced, considered, and enacted at the 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia.

The Council debated the resolution with amendment.

Ms. Christy Winer, Youth Delegate, North Atlanta Convocation, moved to amend the first Resolve to delete "moratorium on" and insert "abolition of" in the first line.

The Council debated the Winer amendment.

**Winer motion failed to carry
Amendment defeated**

The Council debated Resolution R11-6 with Committee amendment.

**Motion carried
Resolution R11-6 adopted with amendment**

Spiritual Growth: The Rev. Stewart Higginbotham, Chair, reported the Committee sends Resolution R11-7 to the Council with Committee amendment without further recommendation.

R11-7a Committee of Discernment Concerning Pelagius

Resolved, that this 105th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta *recommend that the Bishop appoint and oversee* a committee of discernment ~~overseen by our Bishop~~ to consider these matters as a means to ~~honor~~ *understand* the contributions of Pelagius ~~in~~ *to* our tradition; and be it further

Resolved, that this committee will report their conclusions at the next Annual Council.

The Council debated Resolution R11-7 with Committee amendment.

Resolution R11-7 with amendment rejected

Community Ministries The Rev. Alan Sandlin, Chair, reported the Committee recommends adoption of R11-8 with Committee amendment to read as follows:

R11-8a Opposition to Human Trafficking

Resolved, that the 104th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta ~~declare its intention to oppose and prevent human trafficking in all its forms in the state of Georgia~~ *opposes human trafficking in all its forms and will work to prevent it in the state of Georgia*; and be it further

Resolved, that the current Task Force on Sex Trafficking become a Commission of the Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission be named the Commission on Human Trafficking.

Motion carried

Resolution R11-8 adopted with amendment

The Rev. Alan Sandlin, Chair, reported the Committee recommends adoption of Resolution R11-9 reading as follows:

R11-9 Commitment to the Church of the Common Ground

Resolved, that the 105th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta encourage all parishes of the Diocese of Atlanta to include the Church of the Common Ground in their annual outreach budgets for 2012 in order that this ministry to the homeless and marginalized living on the streets of Atlanta continue; and be it further *Resolved*, that the Diocese of Atlanta commit to include the Church of the Common Ground in the Diocesan Budget for 2013.

Motion carried
Resolution R11-9 adopted

Bishop's Address - The Rev. Canon George Maxwell, Chair, reported as follows:

Bishop Alexander, Bishop Whitmore, fellow members of Counsel and honored guests:

I have the privilege of giving the report of the Committee to Respond to the Bishop's Address. Before I begin, though, I want to thank the other members of that committee: Ann Canipe, Charles Fisher, John Herring, Liz Schellingerhoudt, and W.C. Wyatt. They share in my sentiments, and have been gracious enough to allow me to try to put those feelings into words.

In the movie "Annie Hall," Woody Allen makes an insightful comment about what makes healthy relationships. In assessing their relationship, one of his characters says to another: "A relationship, I think, is like a shark. You know? It has to constantly move forward or it dies. And I think what we got on our hands is a dead shark."

Bishop, it is clear from your address that the Diocese of Atlanta is anything but a dead shark.

We are, in fact, moving forward. You talk of the pace of our common life – how crowded your calendar is, how long your "to-do" list has grown, how many new projects parishes are bringing to you for support or consent. You talk about our next Bishop needing to have the skills to "hop a freight" because there is little evidence that this train is going to slow down, even to change conductors.

And, I note that the numbers bear this out.

We actually grew in 2010, while much of the rest of the Episcopal Church in the United States declined.

- Parish support of the Diocese of Atlanta is actually up this year when compared to last.

More importantly, this forward movement is not new. During your tenure, we have started,

- 7 new parishes and worshipping communities, and
- 4 new Hispanic congregations.

Under your leadership, 2003 was, for us, the end of the beginning, not the beginning of the end.

We are a church on the move. And, it feels good.

As with any journey, there are challenges. Moving forward can sometimes feel more like an adventure in the jungle than a walk in the park. But, that's the nature of church.

The Dean tells a story about a man who was stranded for years on a desert island. One day a ship arrived to save him. When the captain of the ship stepped onto the beach, he noticed that there were three identical huts standing there, side by side by side. "What is that?" the captain asked, pointing to the first hut. "That's where I live," the man responded. "I see," said the captain. "What is that?" the captain asked, pointing now to the second hut. "That's where I go to church," the man replied. Impressed with the man's piety, the captain pointed to the third hut and asked, "then, what's that?" "Oh," the man said, "that's where I used to go to church."

We have challenges in our diocesan budget. We will find answers.

Yesterday, we thought that we were going to have to close the Church of the Common Ground, but we found a way to finance her presence on the streets of Atlanta for another year. That should give us time to develop a strategic plan and begin to build operating and financing structures that can sustain that ministry. That was church.

We need to find a way to help fund a staff person for the new ministry being proposed in the Macon Convocation Initiative. Perhaps Thanksgiving will give us an opportunity to address that need.

We need to find a way to continue to fund our other successes: Emmaus House, Holy Comforter, Camp Mikell, Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministries, and various campus ministries. And, we will.

We will do these things because they are important to who we are. We are a church on the move.

You couldn't have said it better when you said that "the best thing about the Diocese of Atlanta is the Diocese of Atlanta."

Now, I also heard you say that you think there will be a day when you will feel like a "lame duck," or a time when you think things might begin to slow down. I wonder. You are an energetic leader. I have never seen you sit still and, frankly, I'm having a hard time trying to imagine what that would even look like. You may be moving out of the Cathedral, but you are not moving out of the Church.

I have been called an optimist. But, I too am a prisoner of hope. And, my hope is that you will continue to guide, inspire, lead, cajole, encourage, and challenge us for years to come.

There is one problem with moving forward at this pace, though. Like a river overflowing its banks, sometimes the water cuts a new channel, and we are powerless to do much about it. We can't control it. We can only watch it with awe, knowing that this is what it looks like when God is doing a new thing.

Bishop, this may be one of those moments.

This was your eleventh and final address to the Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta. I know that you don't want to be saluted. I know that you don't want us to carry on about who you are, or take the time to go back and remember all of the many things that you have done for us. I know you that don't want us to

start recounting all of the ways that you have been responsible for this movement that we all feel and hold so dear.

But, you know, you don't always get what you want.

People who have learned to move find it hard to just sit still in their seats when they want to stand up and shout. This may be one of those moments. I have been asked to create a space for us to show you how we feel, to give you a sense of what this movement that you have nurtured looks like and sounds like.

So, I end this response in gratitude – in gratitude for who you are, in gratitude for what you have done and in gratitude for who we have all become.

We are a church on the move. And, for that, Bishop, we thank you!

Bishop Whitmore gave his reflections on the Diocese.

Date and place of the 106th Annual Council

Annual Council Committee: The Very Rev. Samuel Candler, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip the Deacon, welcomed the 106th Annual Council to the Cathedral on Friday and Saturday, November 9th and 10th, 2012.

Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions. The Rev. Wallace March, Chair reported

The Rev. Stewart Higginbotham of the Commission on Spiritual Growth introduced the Trellis Group that is a resource available to parishes.

The Rev. John Bancroft, St. Joseph's, McDonough, thanked Bishop Alexander for calling Bishop Whitmore to this Diocese.

Bishop Alexander thanked these persons and groups:

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Annual Council Committee, for hours of preparation and planning;

The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, Council Secretary, and Mrs. Marianne Joris, his Assistant Secretary, for the hours of organization of our business;

Richard Perry, Esq. Chancellor, and Thomas Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor;

Diocesan Staff, all of whom put their shoulders to the task of getting ready for Council, but especially Ieasha Barrow, Wynn Callaway, Muriel Diguette, Mary Job, and Linda Scott;

The Budget and Finance Committees, Bonnie Burgess and the staff at the Diocesan Office for all the work in preparing for the 2012 Mission and Ministry Budget;

All the musicians who contributed to the Eucharist; and to The Dean, Clergy, and people of the Northwest Georgia Convocation for hosting the 105th Annual Council.

Council recessed until June 2nd, 2012

Bishop Alexander recessed the 105th Annual Council at 12:02 p.m. until 8:00 a.m., Saturday, June 2nd, 2012.

THIRD DAY

Saturday, June 2, 2012

Bishop Alexander celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral beginning at 9:00 am. Following the Eucharist, the Cathedral was cleared of all persons except diocesan and cathedral staff, who prepared the space for the Third Day of the 105th Annual Council.

Call to order and organization for business

Bishop Alexander called the Council to order at 11:12 a.m.

The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, Secretary, announced that a quorum was present. The Council was organized for business, the election of the Tenth Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Atlanta

Nominations

The Rev. Timothy H. Graham, President of the diocesan Standing Committee, nominated The Rev. George F. Adamik, The Rev. Michael A. Bird, The Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler, The Rev. Martha N. Macgill, The Rev. Canon James H. Pritchett Jr., and the Very Rev. Robert C. Wright for election as the Tenth Bishop Diocesan.

Bishop Alexander explained voting procedures.

First ballot

The first ballot was taken at 11:30 a.m.

Bishop Alexander reported at 11:54 a.m. there was no election and a second ballot would be taken.

Results of the first ballot.

Lay votes cast, 291; Lay votes needed to elect, 147

Clergy votes cast, 170 ; Clergy votes needed to elect: 86

Votes received by each nominee;

	Lay	Clergy
Adamik	39	21
Bird	63	19
Candler	51	47
Macgill	7	22
Pritchett	28	6
Wright	103	55

Second ballot

The second ballot was taken at 12:02 p.m.

Bishop Alexander reported at 12:21 p.m. there was no election and a third ballot would be taken.

Results of the second ballot.

Lay votes cast, 291; Lay votes needed to elect, 147

Clergy votes cast, 173 ; Clergy votes needed to elect: 88

Votes received by each nominee;

	Lay	Clergy
Adamik	18	14
Bird	58	16
Candler	72	64
Macgill	2	5
Pritchett	2	1
Wright	139	73

Third ballot

The third ballot was taken at 12:29 p.m.

The Council was in recess from 12:35 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Bishop Alexander reported the Chancellors had recomputed the number of lay votes needed to elect, but it did not affect the results of the previous two ballots

Bishop Alexander announced at 1:37 p.m. that the Very. Rev. Robert C. Wright had been elected the Tenth Bishop Diocesan of Atlanta.

Results of the third ballot.

Lay votes cast, 291; Lay votes needed to elect, 146.

Clergy votes cast, 172 ; Clergy votes needed to elect: 87

Votes received by each nominee;

	Lay	Clergy
Adamik	3	1
Bird	22	4
Candler	80	75
Macgill	1	2
Pritchett	withdrew	
Wright	185	90

The Very Rev. Robert C. Wright addressed the Council and accepted his election.

Bishop Alexander directed the Clergy Members and Lay Delegates at the Council to sign the canonical testimonial of election before leaving.

Bishop Alexander adjourned the 105th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta *sine die* at 1:57 p.m., June 2, 2012.

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Presiding Officer

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary

