



DIOCESE of ATLANTA

The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia
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MINUTES 110th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, November 18 and 19, 2016, in College Park, Georgia

The 110th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met in the Georgia International Convention Center, College Park, Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19, 2016. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop, was present. Southwest Atlanta Convocation, The Very Rev. Hazel Glover, Dean, was the host.

FIRST DAY: NOVEMBER 18, 2016

Registration began at 7:30 a.m. Bishop Wright celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. for all persons attending Council. The Voices of Hope Women's Choir from Lee Arrendale Women's Detention Center offered a choral prelude, and were joined by a choir from within and outside the convocation in leading congregational singing during the Eucharist.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

Bishop Wright convened the Council with prayer at 10:46 a.m. The Secretary, The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, 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 had not registered for Council and that 5 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. Martha Sterne, Interim Dean of the Mid-Atlanta Convocation, moved the seating of the Lay Delegate from the Church of the Common Ground,

Motion seconded and carried. Lay Delegate seated.

Approval of the Minutes of the 109th Council

Bishop Wright called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 109th 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

The Very Rev. Hazel Glover, Dean of the Southwest Atlanta Convocation, welcomed all in attendance. Bishop Wright welcomed new Clerical Members and Lay Delegates.

Bishop Wright introduced the persons at the head table: The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop; Richard Perry, Esq., Chancellor and Parliamentarian; The Rev. Herschel Atkinson,

Secretary; The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, Assistant Secretary; The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster-Weltner, Dispatch of Business.

The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster-Weltner gave detailed instructions on the dispatch of business at the Council.

Introduction and referral of resolutions to legislative committees

Bishop Wright referred these pre-filed resolutions to these Council legislative committees, noting that C16-1 had been withdrawn by the proponent.

- C16-2: Constitution & Canons (Richard Perry, Chair)
- R16-1: Liturgy (Sam Candler, Council Committee Chair)
- R16-2: Community Ministries (Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair)
- R16-3: Community Ministries (Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair)
- R16-4: Episcopal Charities (Lang Lowrey, Council Committee Chair)
- R16-5: Community Ministries (Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair)
- R16-6: Community Ministries (Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair)
- 2017 Proposed Mission & Ministry Budget: Finance Committee (Les Callahan, Chair)

The Rev. Patricia Templeton, Rector of St. Dunstan's, moved introduction of a resolution from the floor.

Motion seconded. Resolution was assigned the tracking number R16-7 and referred to Community Ministries (Caroline Magee, Chair)

Elections

Bishop Wright announced the names of the nominees for the Standing Committee, Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center, and Trustee, Sewanee, The University of the South, and Deputies for General Convention.

Nominations from the floor were made as follows.

Lay Deputy, General Convention: Les Callahan, St. Anne's, Atlanta

No more nominations, and Bishop Wright declared the nominations closed.

Bishop Wright announced the following election of nominees without opposition.

Lay Member, Standing Committee: Michael Sutton, St. David's, Roswell

Priest Member, Standing Committee: The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, Rector, Grace Gainesville

Clergy Trustee of the University of the South: The Rev. Nikki Mathis, Associate Rector, St. Peter's, Rome

Mr. Karl Sachsenmeier, Chief Teller, instructed the Council on balloting procedure. Ballots for elections of Clerical Deputies and Lay Deputies to General Convention and a like number of Alternate Deputies and for the Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center were interposed among other business of the Council. The results of each election are grouped together here to for convenience of reference.

First ballot cast

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

Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center-Elect two

Amanda Livermont, St. Matthews, Snellville

Chris Watts Booth, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta

Doug Smith, Grace, Gainesville

Clerical Deputy, General Convention-Elect four

Deacon Arthur W. Villareal, Christ Church, Macon
The Rev. Cynthia Park, Associate Rector, Grace, Gainesville
The Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards, St. Thomas, Columbus
The Rev. Jeff Jackson, Rector, St. Nicholas, Hamilton
The Very Rev. Mary Demmler, Rector, St. Matthias, Toccoa
The Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
The Rev. Patricia Templeton, Rector, St. Dunstan's, Atlanta
The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, Rector, St. Patrick's, Dunwoody
The Rev. Sharon Hiers, Sr. Associate Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta
The Rev. Zachary Thompson, Rector, The Church of Our Saviour, Atlanta

Lay Deputy, General Convention- Elect four

Angela Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven
Beth King, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
Bruce Garner, All Saints, Atlanta
John Andrews, Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville
LaFawn A. Gilliam, St. Luke's, Atlanta
Matt Skilling, St. Matthias, Toccoa
Raz Schreiber, St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta
Les Callahan, St. Anne's, Atlanta

Results of First Ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following persons were elected;

Clerical Deputy, General Convention: The Very Rev. Mary Demmler

Lay Deputy, General Convention

Angela Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Brookhaven
Beth King, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
John Andrews, Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville
Matt Skilling, St. Matthias, Toccoa

Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center; Chris W. Booth, Epiphany, Atlanta

Second ballot cast

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

Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center-Elect one

Amanda Livermont, St. Matthew's, Snellville
Doug Smith, Grace, Gainesville

Clerical Deputy, General Convention-Elect three

Deacon Arthur W. Villareal, Christ Church, Macon
The Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
The Rev. Cynthia Park, Associate Rector, Grace, Gainesville
The Rev. Sharon Hiers, Sr. Associate Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Atlant
The Rev. Patricia Templeton, Rector, St. Dunstan's, Atlanta
The Rev. Zachary Thompson, Our Saviour, Atlanta

Results of second ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following persons were elected.

Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center: Chris Watts Booth, Epiphany, Atlanta

*Clerical Deputy, General Convention-*No nominee elected

Third ballot cast

A ballot was cast for the vacancies from among these nominees

Clerical Deputy, General Convention- Elect three

Deacon Arthur W. Villareal, Christ Church, Macon

The Very Rev. Sam Candler, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

The Rev. Sharon Hiers, Associate Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta

The Rev. Jeff Jackson, Rector, St. Nicholas, Hamilton a

The Rev. Cynthia Park, Associate Rector, Grace, Gainesville

The Rev. Zachary Thompson, Our Saviour, Atlanta

Alternate Lay Deputy, General Convention-Elect four

Bruce Garner, All Saints, Atlanta

LaFawn A. Gilliam, St. Luke's, Atlanta

Raz Schreiber, St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta

Les Callahan, St. Anne's, Atlanta

Results of third ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following persons were elected

Clerical Deputy, General Convention

The Very Rev. Sam Candler, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

The Rev. Jeff Jackson, Rector, St. Nicholas, Hamilton

The Rev. Sharon Hiers, Epiphany, Atlanta

Fourth ballot cast

Alternate Clerical Deputy, General Convention-Elect four

Deacon Arthur Villareal, Christ Church, Macon

The Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards, St. Thomas, Columbus

The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, Rector, St. Patrick's, Dunwoody

The Rev. Cynthia Park, Associate Rector, Grace, Gainesville

The Rev. Patricia Templeton, Rector, St. Dunstan's, Atlanta

The Rev. Zachary Thompson, Our Saviour, Atlanta

Results of fourth ballot

Alternate Clerical Deputy, General Convention-in order of votes cast

The Rev. Zachary Thompson, Our Saviour, Atlanta

The Rev. Cynthia Park, Associate Rector, Grace, Gainesville

Fifth Ballot cast

Alternate Clerical Deputy, General Convection-elect two

Deacon Arthur Villareal, Christ Church, Macon

The Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards, St. Thomas, Columbus

The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, St. Patrick's Dunwoody

The Rev. Patricia Templeton, Rector, St. Dunstan's, Atlanta

Results of fifth ballot

Bishop Wright announced the following person was elected.

Alternate Clerical Deputy, General Convention,

The Rev. Patricia Templeton, Rector, St. Dunstan's, Atlanta

Bishop Wright recommended that the remaining nominee with the most votes received be elected as the Fourth Clerical Alternate Deputy.

The Council approved the Bishop's recommendation.

Bishop Wright announced that Deacon Arthur Villareal, Christ Church, Macon, is elected.

Election to Diocesan Board of Review

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, The Very Rev. P. Richard Game (St. Patrick's, Dunwoody) for a second five-year term, and The Hon. J. Stephen Jenkins (St. Alban's, Elberton) as lay member for a four-year term.

Election 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 Rev. Herschel Atkinson; *Assistant Secretary*, The Very Rev. P. Richard Game; *Treasurer*, Mr. Bennie King.

Committee appointments

Bishop Wright appointed these persons to the Committee on Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions: The Rev. Wallace Marsh, Chair (the Cathedral of St. Philip); The Rev. Arlette Benoit (St. Paul's, Atlanta); The Rev. Fabio Sotelo (San Bedas y San Eduardo); Anne Canipe (St. James, Marietta)

Report of Canon 20 Compliance Committee

The Rev. Nancy Shepherd (St. George, Griffin), Chair, reported on parishes' compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 for support of the diocese's mission and ministry: nine parishes appealed non-compliance (compared to six in 2015). Granted in appeals: \$103,923 (compared to \$107,825 in 2015).

Presentation of Financial Report and Proposed Draft Budget

Mr. Bennie King, Treasurer, presented the diocesan financial report (published separately) and made comments, and reported that the most recent audit of diocesan finances gave a "clean opinion." Mr. King presented the Proposed Draft Budget for 2017, 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 2017.

Reports

Bishop Wright recognized The Very Rev. Chad Vaughn, who presented a "*Word from the Deans.*"

Bishop Wright presented to certificates to newly-appointed deans: The Very Rev. P. Richard Game (Northeast Metro), The Very Rev. Keith Oglesby (Marietta), The Very Rev. David Probst (Middle Georgia), The Very Rev. Joshua Case (Interim-North Atlanta), The Very Rev. Martha Sterne (Interim-Mid Atlanta).

The Ven. Deacon Carole Maddux presented a report from the Medicaid Task Force.

Noonday prayers and recess for lunch

Bishop Wright offered a prayer for noonday and grace for lunch.

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

The Council was recessed for lunch at 11:58 am.
Bishop Wright reconvened the Council at 1:14 p.m.

Bishop Wright opted not to have a traditional bishop's address because his sermon at the morning Eucharist outlined his observations and vision for the future.

Bishop Wright recognized Vicky Partin, Diocesan Jubilee Officer, who introduced Ellen Gaffney, Chair of the Board for Wonderful Days Preschool, one of the two newest Jubilee Centers in the Diocese

Bishop Wright recognized The Rev. Greg Tallant (Holy Trinity, Decatur) and The Rev. Sarah Fisher (St. Patrick's, Dunwoody), to introduce Congregational Vitality work. The Very Rev. Keith Oglesby (Holy Spirit, Cumming), The Rev. Jody Greenwood (Christ Church, Norcross) and Shirley Banks presented ministry stories at this time.

Bishop Wright recognized Chimen Rogers (St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta) to report on Hannah Project Atlanta, the 2016 Innovation in Ministry grant recipient.

Bishop Wright recognized The Rev. Donna Mote, who introduced the "Go Guide" video.

Announcements and presentations

Bishop Wright announced Priests' Ordination Anniversaries.

20 years: The Rev. Paul C. Elliott, The Rev. Tim Graham, The Rev. Katherine Roberts;

25 years: The Rev. Cynthia Knapp, The Rev. Kirk Lee and The Rev. James Nixon;

30 years: The Rev. Monroe Freeman, The Rev. Charles Palmgren;

35 years: The Rev. Roger Ard, The Rev. John Dukes, The Rev. Stephen Hall, The Rev. Ken Swanson, The Rev. Dr. Hailey Wilcox;

40 years: The Rev. William Austin, The Rev. Robert Certain, The Rev. Paul Kidd, The Rev. Jeffrey Reichmann, The Rev. Palmer Temple;

45 years: The Rev. Thomas Arledge, The Rev. Dr. Raleigh Hairston, Gareth Harris, The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, The Rev. William Deneke;

50 years, The Rev. Canon John Bolton, The Rev. Jeffrey Cave, The Rev. Sollace Freeman, The Rev. Thomas Jones.

Bishop Wright announced parish Anniversaries, including Church of the Common Ground (10th), Holy Spirit, Cumming (40th), St. Stephen's, Milledgeville (175th), and others presented from the floor.

Council viewed Church of the Common Ground's 10th Anniversary video.

Council recessed for Committee Meetings

Bishop Wright recessed the Council for legislative committee meetings at 3:07 p.m.

Bishop Wright called Council to order at 4:40 p.m.

Awards and Announcements

Bishop Wright recognized Debbie Betsill and Pamela Kohler-Camp of the Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking for the presentation of the annual “Miriam’s Gift” award to Path To Shine at St. Christopher’s in Perry.

Bishop Wright introduced the video, “*The Beloved Community.*”

Bishop Wright recognized Easton Davis, Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Missioner, for information on the Council Service Project.

Bishop Wright invited all to the reception for Bishop and Susie Whitmore and for the Council Service Project.

Bishop Wright called the Council to recess at 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. the next day.

COUNCIL IN RECESS

SECOND DAY: NOVEMBER 19, 2016

Bishop Wright convened the Council at 9:00 am.

Diocesan Youth led morning worship until 9:15 am.

Legislative agenda

Bishop Wright called for reports from legislative committees as shown. He announced that Resolution C16-1 had been withdrawn and that he will appoint a task force to make recommendations to him to clarify the rules under which Deacons will have Clerical Membership in Council and to address other questions around the diaconate.

Constitution and Canons: Richard Perry, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution C16-2, reading as follows:

C16-2 Amend Canon 1. Sec. 2(b)

Resolved, that Canon 1. Sec. 2(b) be amended in toto to read as follows: Section 2.(b). Lay Representation:

(1) Notice or communication required by this canon may be: in person; by telephone, fax, email or other form of wire or wireless communication; or by mail or private carrier.

(2) The Secretary of the Council, not later than six months before its annual meeting, shall advise each Parish and Aided Parish of the number of Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates to which it is entitled by the Constitution of the Diocese.

Each year, the Annual Parish Meeting or the Wardens and Vestry of each Parish or Aided Parish shall elect the number of Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates to which the Parish or Aided Parish is entitled by the Constitution of the Diocese. Following the election the Rector, Vicar, Priest in Charge or the Wardens shall register the Lay Delegates and pay any registration fees in the manner and at the time stated by the Secretary and the Department of Annual Council. Registration shall serve as certification that the persons so elected shall represent the Parish or Aided Parish in the next Annual Council of the Diocese and at all special and called meetings until the following Annual Council, and that all the named lay persons are confirmed communicants of the Church in good standing.

Nonparochial Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates authorized by the Constitution of the Diocese shall be registered in the same manner and serve the same term as those from Parishes and Aided Parishes.

- Text of present canon's subsection (3) without change.
- Text of present canon's subsection (4) without change.

Motion carried Resolution C16-2 adopted

Liturgy: The Very Rev. Samuel B. Candler, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R16-1, reading as follows:

R16-1 Establish Diocesan Commemoration of Appleton Deaconesses

Resolved, that this 110th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, in order to bear witness to the role of women in the history of the Episcopal Church and to the service of this early order of deaconesses in the Episcopal Church and in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, recognizes the Deaconesses who administered the Appleton Church Home and known as the Order of St. Katharine as saints of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta and sets aside a feast day on June 6th in the calendar of the Diocese of Atlanta; and be it further,

Resolved, that the 110th Annual Council petition the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to consider adding the Appleton Deaconesses to the commemorations of this Church.

Motion carried. Resolution R16-1 adopted

Community Ministries: The Rev. Caroline Magee, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R16-2, as amended in committee, reading as follows:

R16-2a Support for Non-discriminatory Legislation

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia, November 18 and 19, 2016, reaffirms the Episcopal Church's support of local, state and federal laws that prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression as set forth in General Convention Resolution 2009-D012 (see www.episcopalchurch.org for text of General Convention resolutions); and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta voice its opposition to all legislation that seeks to deny the God-given dignity, the legal equality, and the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including legislation modeled after North Carolina's discriminatory "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act"; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta voice its opposition to all legislation, ~~rhetoric~~ and policy rooted in the ~~fear-based~~ argument that protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's civil rights in the form of equal access to public accommodation puts other groups at risk; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta call upon the governor and legislators to refrain from the passage of legislation such as so-called "religious liberty" bills and similar bills, and instead to enact legislation that prevents discrimination of all kinds based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta encourage Episcopalians to work against legislation that discriminates against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and work for legislation that prevents such discrimination, and to communicate the church's position to courts, policymakers and others across the State of Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Council be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Georgia, the Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, as well as the Secretary of State, the Attorney General for the State of Georgia and all members of the Georgia General Assembly.

Motion carried .Amendment adopted Resolution R16-2 adopted with amendment.

Community Ministries: The Rev. Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R16-3, as follows:

R16-3 Establish Commission on Healing Justice

Resolved, that the current Death Penalty Abolition Task Force become a Commission of the Diocese, to study, educate, and advocate for restorative justice in the State of Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that this commission will work toward the abolition of the death penalty, in partnership with the Diocese of Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission be named the Commission on Healing Justice.

Motion carried. Resolution R16-3 adopted

Episcopal Charities, The Rev. Canon Lang Lowrey, Council Committee Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R16-4, as follows:

R16-4 Rename the Episcopal Charities Foundation to “Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia”

Resolved, that this 110th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, to more closely align the organization’s name to its work in our Diocese, changes the name of the “Episcopal Charities Foundation” to the “Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia”; and be it further

Resolved, that the 110th Annual Council changes the name of the Foundation’s Endowment from “The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation” to “The Rt. Rev. Bennett J. Sims Endowment of the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia”; and be it further

Resolved, that the purpose of the Foundation shall continue to be to serve the poor and oppressed from its income, and to raise funds for grants for ministry with the poor throughout The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta in a manner determined by the Board of Directors of the Foundation with approval of the Bishop of Atlanta.

Motion carried. Resolution R16-4 adopted

Community Ministries: The Rev. Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R16-5, as amended in committee, reading as follows:

R16-5a In support of a Community Benefits Agreement for the neighborhoods immediately surrounding Turner Field

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia, November 18 & 19, 2016, affirms that the Episcopal Church stands with residents impacted by the redevelopment of Turner Field and surrounding parking lots, who have experienced displacement due to stadium development for nearly 50 years; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta calls on Georgia State University and the development team headed by Carter & Associates to enter into a legally binding Community Benefits Agreement with the residents of the impacted neighborhoods, with support from the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority (AFCRA); and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta supports *the concept of* a legally binding Community Benefits Agreement that is guided by the community benefits recommendations developed and proposed by the Turner Field Community Benefits Coalition, whose membership is composed of local residents and community-based organizations including Emmaus House, a

mission of the Episcopal Church for nearly 50 years, within the impacted stadium neighborhoods of Summerhill, Peoplestown, Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Atlanta calls on Episcopalians to utilize their networks and relationships with City of Atlanta leadership, Fulton County Commissioners, members of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and leadership of Carter & Associates and Oakwood Development to advocate for a binding Community Benefits Agreement that addresses the expressed needs of the impacted communities; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Council be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the City of Atlanta, the President *and members* of City Council, the Chairman *and Commissioners* of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the Executive Director *and members* of the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority, the President *and faculty senate* of Georgia State University, *Chancellor and members of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents*, the President & CEO of Carter & Associates and the President & CEO of Oakwood Development.

Motion carried. Amendment adopted. Resolution R16-5 adopted with amendment

Community Ministries: The Rev. Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R16-6 as amended in committee, reading as follows:

R16-6a Georgia Criminal Justice Reform: Reclassifying traffic offenses out of the criminal code

Praying for “leaders of our communities, our church, our country and our world, that they may make decisions that are in accord with God’s commandments that bring life, justice and peace,”

Reclaiming Hope through Remembering (Macon, Georgia Oct. 22, 2016), and that they may have all necessary resources of courage, wisdom, and steadfastness to overcome inertia, *it is Resolved*, that the Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta urge the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council to look to the experience of the 22 States that have already reclassified traffic offenses out of the criminal code and to persevere with the effort to bring this reform to Georgia, ~~, a reform that holds such great potential to make our State of Georgia a more civilized place;~~ and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Council be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Georgia, the Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, as well as the Secretary of State, the Attorney General for the State of Georgia and all members of the Georgia General Assembly.

Motion carried. Amendment adopted Resolution R16-6 adopted with amendment

Community Ministries: The Rev. Caroline Magee, Council Committee Chair, moved rejection of Resolution R16-7, as amended in committee, reading as follows:

R16-7a

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia on November 18 and 19, 2016 rejects **bigotry of all kinds**. ~~the rhetoric of extreme bigotry of all kinds exhibited in the recent presidential campaign.~~

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta calls on **all elected officials and their administrations** ~~President-elect Donald Trump and his administration~~ to affirm the principles of basic human decency and our constitutional democracy.

Mr. Bruce Garner, Chair of the Diocesan HIV/AIDS Task Force, moved to amend R16-7a by substituting language therefor. Debate followed. Several secondary amendments to the substituted language were adopted.

During debate the Rev. Sarah Fisher, St. Patrick's, Dunwoody, moved to table the resolution

Motion failed to carry. Debate continued

Delegate Bob Adams, St. Matthias, Toccoa, moved to amend the resolution by substituting the following language therefor:

IN AS MUCH AS the nation and its citizens, especially in consequence of the recent presidential campaign and election, recently have been assaulted by an eruption of threatening rhetoric, felonious incitements, mob violence, malicious mischief, and other breaches of the public peace, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Diocese in Council assembled on the 19th day of November, 2016, that

- The President and the members of his administration,
- the President Elect and his spokespersons and advisors,
- all governors, mayors, and others to whom has been delegated the authority and responsibility of governance,
- all faith leaders, civic and community leaders, educators, journalists, celebrities, and others who shape public opinion, and
- all citizens, in their workplaces, neighborhoods, associations, and families

be charged to affirm, by word and example, the principles of human dignity, civil discourse, social order, the rule of law, and the traditions of our constitutional republic and further be charged to disavow and to rebuke any and all acts, expressions, or intention contrary to these principles and traditions.

Motion failed to carry. Amendment defeated

During debate a clerical Member moved to refer R16-7 to the Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism.

Motion dialed to carry. Debate continued.

The amendment to substitute language for R161-7a with amendment reads as follows:

R16-7sa (final form)

Resolved, the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in College Park, Georgia, on November 18 and 19, 2016, notes that we, as Episcopalians, are continually striving to aspire to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being as well as to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and be it further

Resolved that language was often used in the most recent election cycle that demeaned and denigrated the children of God on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, income, and political viewpoint, and be it further

Resolved that such language is abhorrent to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant, and be it further

Resolved that this Council urge lawmakers, politicians, and policy makers at all levels of government, and all political parties, to refrain from using language that in any way denigrates, demeans, abuses, or damages any members of the human rainbow of diversity in God's creation, and be it further

Resolved that we call our leaders to commit themselves to listen deeply and openly to the many voices of our country, and be it further

Resolved that the Secretary of Council shall be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President, the President-elect, and the leadership of the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, as well as to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the leadership of the House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Georgia.

Motion carried. Substitute amendment with amendments adopted. Resolution R16-7 adopted with amendment

Presentation of Diocesan Proposed Draft Budget for 2017

Bennie King, Diocesan Treasurer, presented. The Rev. Mary Erickson, member of the Finance and Budget Committee, moved that the Proposed Draft Budget for 2017 be adopted in principle and be referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for final action.

Motion carried. Draft Budget referred to Executive Board

Announcements and Presentations

Bishop Wright called Catherine Meeks, to recognize her he Chair of the Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism.

Bishop Whitmore's reflections

Bishop Wright recognized Bishop Whitmore for his reflections, and presented him with a gift.

Place and date of 111th Annual Council

Bishop Wright recognized Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee and The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, Grace Church, Gainesville, for a Report on the Committee on Annual Council, who moved that the 111th Annual Council be hosted by the Northeast Georgia Convocation on November 10-11, 2017 in Gainesville, Georgia.

Motion carried

Report and Resolutions of Memorials and Courtesy Committee

The Rev. Wallace Marsh, Chair, moved the following resolutions that were seconded.

R16-8 Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions

Be it Resolved, that this 110th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta extend greetings to the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander and the Rt. Rev. Frank Allan and Mrs. Allan; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we extend our greetings to the Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael C. Curry, as we join in the Jesus Movement.

Let it be Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Tenth Bishop of Atlanta, who inspires us "to challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately and grow spiritually."

Be it Resolved, that we express our gratitude for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Keith and Suzie Whitmore. We give thanks for the ways they have blessed this diocese and pray for them during this transition.

Let it be further Resolved, that we extend our thanks to the Rt. Reverend Don Wimberly for his faithful leadership and continued service to our diocese.

Be it Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Dean, clergy and people of the Southwest Convocation for hosting Annual Council, along with expression of gratitude to the Chancellor and Officers of Annual Council.

Let it be further Resolved, that we send appreciation to Easton Davis, Diocesan Youth Missioner, for leading and organizing youth events at this council; and

Be it resolved, that we welcome the following clergy to the Diocese of Atlanta: *Gary Abbott, William B. Austin, Michael Billingsley, Geoffrey Boyer, Susan Louttit Hardaway, Lauren Holder, Cynthia Knapp, Barbara Koch, Barry Kubler, Ryan Kuratko, Patricia Miller, Caroline Peacock, Samuel Porras, Lynn Washington, Luke Wetzels, Richard Winters, and Kirtley Yearwood.*

Let it be further resolved, that we commend the following clergy to ministries in other dioceses: *Kent Branstetter, Geoffrey Hoare, Michael Sullivan, Rob Wood, and Noelle York-Simmons.*

Let it be further resolved, that we send our appreciation and prayers to clergy who have retired: *Harry Carson, Albert Daviou, Loree Reed, and Mac Thigpen.*

Let it be further Resolved, that we write into record our appreciation for the faithful clergy and laity who love, care, and serve parishes and worshipping communities in the Diocese of Atlanta; and

We also remember those who have died in the past year:

Clergy: *The Rt. Rev. Harry Shipps, The Rev. George Maxwell, Sr., The Rev. Bob Rickard, The Rev. Harold Bott, and The Rev. Reginald Gunn.*

Lay: *Lorenzo Ridenhour, Ruth Vaught, Kathleen Cowart, John Samuel Roney, Wayne Franz, and Gary Pannell.*

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 and Assistant Secretary of Council; the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor; the Dispatch of Business Chair; the Bishop's Staff; the Budget and Finance Committee and all who worked on the 2017 Mission and Ministry Budget; all who led worship and music; Chairs of Committees; and the hosting Southwest Metro Convocation's clergy, staff, musicians, and volunteers for their hospitality, and the youth who led the morning's music and all who helped with the lock-in.

Bishop Wright adjourned the Council *sine die* at 12:08 p.m.

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

The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Presiding Officer

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary