

MINUTES
106TH Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta
November 9th and 10th, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia

The 106th Annual Council met in Child Hall at the Cathedral of St. Philip the Deacon in Atlanta, Georgia on November 9th and 10th, 2012. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, the Assistant Bishop, was present. The Cathedral parish was the host.

FIRST DAY
Friday, November 9th, 2012

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

Bishop Diocesan Robert C. Wright celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Don A. Wimberley, Retired Bishop of Texas, preached.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

Bishop Wright called the Council to order at 11:40 a.m., November 9th, 2012.

The Rev. Rebekah Bokros Hatch led the gathering hymn. Bishop Wright led the Council in prayer. The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary, announced that a quorum is present, based on registrations. He announced that four parishes do not have Lay Delegates to this Council and that four parishes' participation is restricted by Diocesan Canon 20. The Council was organized for business.

Admission of a Lay Delegate from the Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta

The Rev. Canon George Maxwell, Chair of the Church of the Common Ground Advisory Board, moved that the Council seat a Lay Delegate and a Clergy Member of the Church of the Common Ground to this Council with seat, voice and vote.

The motion was seconded, and the Council adopted the motion. The Rev. Mary Wetzel, Vicar, thanked those who had made and honored commitments toward support of the Church of the Common Ground.

Approval of the minutes of the 105th Annual Council

On motion, seconded, the Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the 105th Annual Council and approved them as published on the diocesan internet web site.

Agenda adopted

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

Announcements and introductions

The Very Rev. Samuel Candler, Dean of the Cathedral, welcomed the clergy and delegates to the Council.

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of the Annual Council Committee, addressed the Council.

Bishop Wright welcomed the first-time Lay Delegates and new Clergy Members to the Council.

Bishop Wright introduced the priests who are the deans of the convocations: Macon, Harriette Simmons; Chattahoochee Valley, Allen Pruitt (new); Southwest Atlanta, Hazel Glover; Mid-Atlanta, Dan Matthews (new); East Atlanta, Mac Thigpen; North Atlanta, Michael Tanner (new); Northeast Metro, Kent Branstetter; Marietta, Rob Wood; Northeast Georgia, Dena Bearl (new); Northwest Georgia, Janice Bracken Wright.

Bishop Wright introduced persons on the *praesidium*, The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop; Richard Perry, Esq., Chancellor; Thomas Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor; The Rev. Hazel Glover, Dispatch of Business; The Rev Herschel Atkinson, Secretary; Mrs. Marianne Joris, Recording Secretary; The Rev. Timothy Graham, Assistant Secretary. He introduced the members of the staff of the diocesan office.

Bishop Wright introduced University of the South Trustees Stephen Burnett. John Ford and the Rev. Sharon Hiers; and Member of the Board of Regents The Rev. Michael Sullivan.

The Rev. Hazel Glover, Dispatch of Business, instructed the Council on Council procedures.

Introduction of resolutions and their referrals to legislative committees

Bishop Wright referred pre-filed Resolution C12-1, Amend Canon 9, submitted by the Appleton Family Ministries Board of Governors, to Constitution and Canons Committee.

Bishop Wright referred pre-filed Resolution R12-1, Commitment to the Church of the Common Ground, submitted by the clergy of the East Atlanta Convocation, to the Church of the Common Ground Committee.

The Rev. Jeffrey Cave, Annunciation, Marietta, moved the following resolution. The Secretary numbered it R12-2. Bishop Wright referred it to the Committee on Hispanic Ministries. *We hereby resolve* that the 106th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta supports the decriminalization of minor traffic offenses in the state of Georgia and that a copy of this resolution should be forwarded to the Governor and members of the General Assembly.

Bishop Wright appointed the members of the Committee on the Church of the Common Ground: The Rev. George Maxwell, chair; The Rev. Benno Pattison; The Rev Mary Wetzel; Ms Melissa Hamid; and Ms. Barbara Culmer-Illaw.

Elections

The Bishop appointed Mr. Karl Sachsenmaier as Chief Teller. Parish vergers served as Assistant Tellers. The Bishop and the Chief Teller outlined election procedures. In addition to the pre filed nominations below, there were nominations from the floor as follows:

Governor, Mikell Camp and Conference Center: The Rev. Ken Struble nominated Eric Leneaus. The Rev. Hazel Glover nominated Tony Mcgaughey. Both are from St. Margaret's, Carrollton.

First ballot taken

The Council elected these persons who had no opposition:

Appleton Family Ministries Governor: Mr. Charlie Brogdon, St. Francis', Macon, and The Rev Joseph J. Shippen, Christ Church, Macon.

Trustee, University of the South: Mr. George Williamson, St. Martin in the Fields, Atlanta

Governors, Mikell Camp and Conference Center: Mr. Eric Leneaus and Mr. Tony Mgaughey, both from St. Margaret's, Carrollton.

A ballot was taken for election to the offices shown from among the persons shown:

Standing Committee, Priest Member: Jeff Jackson. St. Nicholas', Hamilton; Patricia Templeton, St. Dunstan's; Atlanta, S. Chadwick Vaughn, St. Bede's, Atlanta; and Ben R. Wells St. Francis', Macon

Elections: Diocesan Disciplinary Board and Diocesan Officers

The Bishop nominated and the Council elected these persons to the offices shown.

Diocesan Disciplinary Board, Clerical Member, for four year term: The Rev. Barry Q. Griffin,
St. Augustine's, Morrow

Diocesan Disciplinary Board, Lay Member, for three year term: J. Stephen Jenkins Sr. Esq.,
St. Alban's, Elberton

Chancellor; Richard P. Perry, Esq., Cathedral of St Philip the Deacon, Atlanta

Vice Chancellor: Thomas Christopher Esq., St. Anne's, Atlanta

Treasurer: Mr. Bennie King,

Secretary; The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson

Assistant Secretary: The Rev. Timothy Graham, Good Shepherd, Covington

Legislative Committee appointments

The Bishop appointed members of these committee<

Memorials and Courtesy: The Rev. Kimberley Jackson, Atlanta University Center (Chair);
The Rev. Wallace Marsh, Cathedral; The Rev. Mary Wetzel, Church of the Common
Ground, Atlanta' Ms. Ann Canipe, St. James, Marietta; Ms. Annelies Schillingerhoudt,
Mid-Atlanta Convocation Youth Delegate

Bishop's Address: The Rev. Michael Sullivan, Holy Innocents', (Chair); The Rev. Mary
Erickson, Ascension, Cartersville; The Rev. John Sewak Ray, Christ the King, Lilburn;
Mr. Richard Hackett, Absalom Jones Center, Atlanta; The Rev. Jenna Strizak.
Holy Trinity, Decatur

Reports

Canon 20 Appeals Board: The Rev. Harriette Simmons reported on the status of parishes.

Treasurer: Mr. Bennie King, Treasurer, and Mr. Stephen Burnett, Chair of Finance Department,
reported on the financial status of the diocese and presented the Proposed Draft Mission
and Ministry Budget for 2013. It will be considered by the legislative committee on
Finance.

Results of first ballot

The Bishop announced the results of the first ballot as follows;

Standing Committee, Lay Member: Ms. Ann Canipe, St. James', Marietta, was elected

Standing Committee, Priest Member: no nominee received a majority of votes cast

Second ballot taken

Standing Committee, Priest Member: A ballot was taken for election from between Jeff Jackson
and Patricia Templeton

Reports continued

New Archbishop of Canterbury: The Bishop announced that the Bishop of Durham will be the
next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Stewardship Commission: by Mrs. Tammy Pallot, St. Francis, Macon

Church of the Holy Comforter: by The Rev. Mike Tanner, Vicar

Ms. Dianne Burrows presented a United Thank Offering of \$26,000 to the Church of Holy
Comforter, Atlanta.

Results of second and final ballot

The Bishop announced that the Rev. Jeff Jackson, St. Nicholas, Hamilton, was elected Priest
Member of the Standing Committee.

The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner instructed the Council about the afternoon discussion groups. Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee, gave instructions for lunch. The Rev Barry Q. Griffin, St. Augustine's, Morrow, closed the morning session with a meditation.

The Bishop recessed the Council at 1:25 p.m. *During the recess the Council had lunch and then met in legislative committees and discussion groups beginning at 2:15 p.m.*

Bishop's address and responses

The Bishop reconvened the Council at 3:33 p.m. and gave his address to Council.

The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner instructed the Council on responding to the address with three questions:

What did you hear that gave you hope? What did you feel called to as a result of what you heard? What would you have liked to have heard that you did not?

Each table group discussed the questions and wrote responses that were collected for consideration by the Committee on the Bishop's Address.

Celebrations

The Bishop announced these celebrations:

Clergy ordained since the preceding Council: Priests: Shaun Bennett, Andrew Cannan, Daniel Dice, Stephen Holton, Stephen Jones, Stephen McGehee, Brandon Peete, Tracy Wells Miller.

Priest received from Roman Catholic Church: Fabio Sotelo.

Transitional Deacons: Gwin Hanahan, Shirley Porter, Jenna Strizak.

Deacon: Anthony Sgro.

Priests new to the Diocese (and whence transferred): Roger Allen, St. James', Marietta, (Alabama); Christopher Cole, Holy Innocents', Atlanta (Western North Carolina); Lauren Kuratko, St. Martin's, Atlanta, (Virginia); Patricia Merchant, nonparochial, (Southern Ohio); Edward Mulligan, Holy Innocents', Atlanta, (Rhode Island); Dennis Patterson, St. Luke's, Atlanta, (Southern Virginia); Julia Rusling, Incarnation, Atlanta, (Rochester); Cynthia Park, St. Aidan's, Milton, (Alabama)

Parish Anniversaries celebrated at the Bishop's Visitation: Atonement, Sandy Springs, 50 years; Annunciation, Marietta, 25 years; St. Gabriel's, Oakwood, 14 years.

Major Ordination Anniversaries of Priests: 25 years: Ramon Betances, Dorothy Brown, Paul A. Elliott, Mary Johnson, Gordon Okusanya. *Fifty years:* Noel Burtenshaw.

Custodian of the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Rev. Dwight Ogier, 10 years.

Reports continued

Episcopal Charities Foundation: by Ms. Ginny Heckel.

Emmaus House: by The Rev. Claiborne Jones.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew by Mr. Billy Harrison.

The Rev Dann Brown, University of Georgia Campus Ministry, asked for university students' contact information

Dispatch of Business: The Rev. Hazel Glover made announcements about the next day's session.

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo gave a closing meditation.

The Bishop blessed the Council and recessed it at 4:59 p.m.

SECOND DAY
Saturday, November 10th, 2012

The Bishop called the Council to order at 9:02 a.m.

The Rev. Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner and Mr. Riley Dugan, East Atlanta Convocation Youth Delegate, instructed the Council on the Bible study of Ephesians 5:15 that followed.

Committee Reports

Finance: Mr. Steve Burnett, Chair, reported the 2013 Draft Proposed Diocesan Mission and Ministry Budget as adopted in committee is about 75% program and 25% administration. The committee recommends it be approved. A motion, duly seconded, recommended it be approved [for referral as the Proposed Budget to the Diocesan Executive Board for final adoption.].

Motion carried

Proposed Budget approved

Constitution and Canons: Richard Perry, Chair, moved that Resolution C12-1, reading as follows, be adopted.

C12-1-Amend Canon 9. Section 3

Resolved, that Section 3 of Canon 9-Of the Board of Governors of Appleton Family Ministries of the Diocese of Atlanta be amended to read as follows.

Section 3. All members of the Board shall have a term of ~~two~~ *three* years, and shall be eligible for successive terms. No elected member shall serve more than two successive full terms.

Motion carried

Resolution C12-1 adopted

Church of the Common Ground: The Rev. Canon George Maxwell, Chair, reported on Resolution R12-1, original text reading as follows:

R12-2- Support of Church of the Common Ground

Resolved, that the 106th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, in accord with Resolution R11-9 passed at the 105th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, appropriate funds and designate a line item in our annual budget for the Church of the Common Ground, our mission parish to the homeless; and be it further

Resolved, that our Bishop appoint a task force to explore, study, and make recommendations about mission and how to fund mission for the Diocese of Atlanta.

Canon Maxwell moved a committee amendment to substitute language to read as follows:

R12-1s

Resolved, that the 106th Annual Council express its appreciation and thanks for the inclusion of the Church of the Common Ground in the 2013 Mission and Ministry budget; and be it further

Resolved, that the narrative accompanying the 2013 Mission and Ministry budget be supplemented to describe the mission and work of the Church of the Common Ground and that this edited narrative be included in the published *Journal of the Annual Council*.

Motion carried

Amendment adopted

Motion to adopt Resolution R12-1 with amendment made and seconded.

Motion carried

R12-1s adopted

Hispanic Ministries; The Rev. Jeffrey Cave, Chair, reported on Resolution R12-2, original text reading as follows:

R12-2-Decriminalization of Minor Traffic Offenses

We hereby Resolve that the 106th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta supports the decriminalization of minor traffic offenses in the state of Georgia, and that a copy of this resolution should be forwarded to the Governor and members of the General Assembly.

He moved a committee amendment to substitute language to read as follows:

R12-2s

Resolved, that the 106th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta support the recommendation of the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council decriminalization of minor traffic offenses in the state of Georgia, turning them into civil violations, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly.

The Rev. Paul McCabe, Annunciation, Marietta, moved to amend the substituted language to read as follows.

Resolved, that the 106th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta support ~~the recommendation~~ of the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council ~~decriminalization~~ *reform* of minor traffic offenses in the state of Georgia, turning them into civil violations, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly.

Motion defeated

Amendment rejected

Mr. Jackson Kane, St. Luke's, Atlanta, moved to amend the substituted language to read as follows:

Resolved, that the 106th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta support the ~~recommendation~~ of the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council decriminalization of minor traffic offenses in the state of Georgia, turning them into civil violations, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly.

Motion Carried

Amendment adopted

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution R12-2 with amendment.

Motion carried

Resolution R12-2sa adopted

R12-2sa, final text

Resolved, that the 106th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta support the decriminalization of minor traffic offenses in the state of Georgia, turning them into civil violations, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly.

Ministry reports

Chattahoochee Valley Ministry: by Ms. Vicky Partin

Mikell Camp and Conference Center: by The Rev. Ken Struble, Director

Commissions and Committees Reflections: by The Rev. Canon George Maxwell, as follows.

Summary of feedback from commissions and committees

1. What could this diocese look like/celebrate in five years?

We celebrate diversity

More young people

People who speak other languages

People from other cultures

All colors and races

People with disabilities

Different styles of worship celebrated that would be preferred by young people and people from other cultures

Creative types of ministry are explored (e.g., Common Ground, Path to Shine)

We are welcoming

All are welcome here

We make accommodations so people who are different feel welcomed

Accessibility to our buildings

Open to different liturgy and worship

We also reach out to people not in church

Lapsed members

People with questions or past hurts that keep them out of church

Lost sheep—never been in church before

We proclaim the Good News of Jesus in what we say and do and in who we are

We are prayerful and worshipful

We use different liturgies

Yet we still teach people how to use the BCP

We use different prayer methods like *lectio divina* and centering prayer

We respect the worship and prayer practices of other cultures and generations

We are focused on Mission and Service

We reach out to our neighborhoods and the world around us

Each parish has a ministry like Common Ground

75% of parishes are doing mission work

Committed to advocacy, education and change for critical social issues

Domestic violence—so there are no more deaths

Human trafficking—so that no more young people are abused

Environmental stewardship—so there are no more Styrofoam cups used in the Diocese

End predatory lending

Champion just immigration policies

We have networks of cooperation between outreach ministries

There are diocese-wide collective ministries

We publicize existing ministries and connect them

We provide guidance and recourses

Our budget should be determined by mission, not mission by the budget

2. In order to make that dream a possibility, what do we need to do more or less of?

Live more of a Gospel life

Ask people to do something

Pray regularly and especially before meetings

Study Scripture

Do more planning for community ministry

More communication between ministries

Be less territorial

Develop more networks for cooperation and best practices

Spend less on new buildings and additions

Worry less about bricks and mortar

Go out where people are—e.g., Common Ground, Mass on the Grass, etc.

Do more advocacy and education (listed above)

End domestic violence

Stop human trafficking

Encourage environmental stewardship

Prevent predatory lending

Just immigration policies

Do less—keep Sabbath

Diocese/parish clergy set faithful, healthy example for work and rest

Focus more on family relationships

Offer more fellowship and retreat opportunities

Do more evangelism

More advertising—message like “Catholics, come home.”

Support materials for parishes based on the advertising

Teach individuals how to talk about our faith—overcome our fear

College ministry

Clergy proclaim the Good News clearly from the pulpit

Don't apologize for being Episcopalian or Christian—

Have language to explain what we believe

Develop relationships with people who do not share our faith

3. What structures do we need to dismantle and what might we need to build?

Dismantle our fear of change

Question our prejudice

Overcome fear of the unknown

Be open to change in liturgy and music

Dismantle doing “same old thing”

Build better technology and more social media connections

Build new, more central facility for conferences, or continue to improve Camp Mikell

Build more parish/campus partnerships (e.g., St. Aidan offered to host students from Georgia Tech)

Rename Diocese—more than Atlanta. Upper Georgia?

Dismantle convocations

Restructure based on geography

Restructure based on shared interests

Or question if we keep them at all

Build better convocations or structures for our common life

Restructure (as stated above)

Include lay people in more meetings

Consider term limits for deans

Develop sister parishes—

Dissimilar parishes that work together

Can be for a season—not necessarily permanent

4. What are you (as an individual or church or committee) willing to do to partner with God in to do God’s work?

Be less anxious. Pray.

Reach out to neighbor in need

Bring children in need to church

Reach out to the isolated elderly

Talk to people about Jesus

Teach people

About outreach

Social justice issues

About the Bible

Open our parishes to others

Get to know the people who live around us

Get to know members of other congregations

Share best practices

Offer what we have/know to others (e/g., Spanish language immersion at Christ Church, Norcross)

Step up

Speak about advocacy issues

Evangelism—share our faith

Share info about important issue with others

Write specific prayers of the people about our areas of concern

Bishop Whitmore reflected on his ministry in the diocese over the past year.
Episcopal Relief and Development Nets for Life Program: by Mr. Jonathon Serrie, St. Luke's, Atlanta. He reported that \$160,900 for 12,413 nets had been received.

The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham presented a noonday meditation to the Council.

The Bishop recessed the Council for lunch at 11:47 a.m.

The Bishop called the Council to order at 12:52 p.m.

Ministry reports continued

Kids for Peace. The Rev. Brian Sullivan introduced Mr. Will Peterson, Holy Innocents', Atlanta, who spoke about his experience. A video presentation about Kids for Peace followed.

Committee on Bishop's Address. The Rev. Michael Sullivan, Chair, reported. The Committee gave a resounding endorsement of the address.

Committee on Memorials and Courtesy. The Rev. Kimberly Jackson, Chair, moved the following resolutions, read by members of the Committee

Read by the Rev. Kimberly Jackson

Be it Resolved, that this 106th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta extend greetings to the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander; Rt. Rev. Frank Allan and Mrs. Allan; to Mrs. Mary Page Sims, widow of Bishop Bennett J. Sims; to The Rt. Rev. Milton Wood, retired Bishop Suffragan of Atlanta; to The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; to The Rt. Rev. Mdimi Mohologo, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, our companion diocese; to The Rt. Rev. Filadelfo Olivera, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, our companion diocese; and to the Rt. Rev. Victor Scantlebery, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Ecuador Central, our companion diocese; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we send appreciation and prayers of support to Dr. Martin and The Rev. Sandy McCann and Magi Griffin in their ministry in Central Tanganyika; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Reverend Don Wimberley for his inspiring sermon as we opened Council with Eucharist; and

Be it further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Reverend Robert C. Wright, Tenth Bishop of Atlanta, for his leadership and vision that moves us towards drawing the circle wider.

Read by Ms. Ann Canipe

Let it be further Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Dean, Canons and people of the Cathedral of St. Philip for hosting Annual Council again this year along with expression of gratitude to the Chancellor and Officers of Annual Council; and

Let it be further Resolved, that we offer prayer of support for the Rt. Reverend Justin Welby, the newly named Archbishop of Canterbury.

Let it be further Resolved, that we offer prayers of thanksgiving as the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander begins his new ministry as Dean of the School of Theology at Sewanee.

Let it be further Resolved, that we commend to ministries in other dioceses; The Rev. Susan Bennett, The Rev. Janice Chalaron, The Rev. Andrew Downs, The Rev. Benjamin Harvey Hill,

The Rev. Dorothea Littlepage, The Rev. Richard Martindale, The Rev. Penny Nash, and The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller.

Read by Ms. Annelies Schillingerhoudt

Let it be further Resolved, that this 106th Annual Council write into the record our deep and profound appreciation for the work of the Rev. Canon Debra Shew over the many years of her tenure in our midst, and

Be it further Resolved, that this legacy of doing justice, showing mercy, and respecting the dignity of every human being be held as a moral and spiritual guide for us all.

Be it further Resolved, that we commend Lauren Woody Caldwell for her ministries with young adults.

Let it be further Resolved, that we offer an assurance of prayer and continued support to all of the Bishops and people of the dioceses effected by Hurricane Sandy.

Read by the Rev. Mary Wetzel

We also remember with prayerful gratitude for their life and witness those who have died in the past year: The Reverend Eugene Britton, The Reverend Burgess Carr, The Reverend Deacon Edward Cundiff, The Reverend Milton Coward, The Reverend Arthur Lockhart, The Reverend James K. Yeary, and any former lay delegates.

We also remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Motions Carried
Resolutions adopted

The Bishop thanked these persons for their work in the Council; Chair of Annual Council Committee, Secretary and Recording Secretary, Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, Diocesan Staff, Budget and Finance Committee and all who worked on the 2013 Mission and Ministry Budget, All who led discussion groups, committee, and meditation groups, The Rev. Rebekah Hatch for providing music, and the Cathedral of St. Philip, its Dean and Canons, staff, and musicians for their hospitality.

Closing and adjournment sine die

The Rev. Kimberly Jackson gave a closing meditation.

The Bishop announced the 107th Annual Council will meet at Holy Innocents', Atlanta, on November 8th and 9th, 2013.

The Council sang a closing hymn, and the Bishop blessed the Council.

The Bishop adjourned the Council *sine die* at 1:45 p.m., November 10th, 2012.