



DIOCESE of ATLANTA

The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia
2744 Peachtree Road NW • Atlanta, GA 30305 • 404-601-5320 or 800-537-6743 • episcopalatlanta.org

MINUTES of the 114th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, November 13 and 14, 2020.

The 114th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met virtually, over the internet, with only the Bishop Diocesan, the Chair of Dispatch of Business, the Chancellor, the Chancellor Emeritus and Registrar, and the Secretary convening in person at the Cathedral of St. Philip, 2744 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, GA, 30305. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair.

The Annual Council Worship and Bishop's Sermon was broadcast over the internet at 7:00pm on Thursday, November 12.

FIRST DAY: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Virtual registration began 8:00am (by members logging-on), followed by a check-in and a Virtual Council Tutorial.

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

At 9:33 a.m., Bishop Wright convened Annual Council and called on the Chair of Dispatch of Business to remind Council Members about the webinar format, to direct them to detailed instructions in their Council Packets, and to confirm that all voting would occur by DOTS Connect.

Bishop Wright called on the Secretary, The Very Rev. P. Richard Game, who announced that a constitutional quorum was present based on the registrations. Bishop Wright confirmed that a quorum was present. The Secretary announced that only one parish was not entitled to vote. The Council was organized for business.

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

The Secretary moved the seating of the Lay Delegate from Church of the Common Ground.

Motion seconded and carried. Lay Delegate seated.

Approval of the Minutes of the 113th Council

Bishop Wright called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 113th 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 Packets.

Motion seconded and carried. Agenda adopted.

Announcements and Introductions

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

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

Bishop Wright called on the Chair of Dispatch of Business to announce that, because of the impracticality of meeting face-t-face, the business of Council would be conducted virtually. Bishop Wright recognized the Chancellor, who spoke on the validity of Council meeting virtually. Bishop Wright called on the Chair of Dispatch of Business, who provided detailed instructions on dispatch of business.

Introduction and referral of resolutions to legislative committees

Bishop Wright referred these pre-filed resolutions to Council legislative committees for deliberation (none were proposed from the floor):

- **R20-1** **Resolution to Acknowledge First Nations in Georgia** (Community Ministries)
- **R20-2** **Resolution Opposing Georgia’s Citizen Arrest Law** (Community Ministries)

The 2021 Mission and Ministry Budget for the Diocese of Atlanta was referred to the Finance Committee.

Elections

Bishop Wright appointed Mr. Phillip Knight (St. Teresa’s, Acworth), as Chief Teller, who to certify the electronic election results.

Bishop Wright announced the names of the nominees for *The Standing Committee (lay and cleric)* and *The Board of Governors of Mikell Camp and Conference Center*. As there were no qualified nominees for Lay Trustee of the University of the South, Bishop Wright announced that the trustee vacancy would be filled according to University Rules. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Wright declared the nominations closed.

Dispatch of Business gave instructions on balloting and elections. Virtual ballots were cast for elections as follows:

First Ballots Cast

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

Board of Governors, Mikell Camp and Conference Center, elect 2

Brian Cade (St. Bartholomew’s, Atlanta)

Laura Lenaeus, (St. Margaret’s, Carrollton)

Standing Committee, Lay, elect one

Joy Jones, (St. Paul’s, Atlanta)

Standing Committee, Cleric, elect one

The Rev. Ben Day (Christ Church, Kennesaw)

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, (St. Edward’s/San Eduardo, Lawrenceville; San Bedas, Atlanta)

Results of First Ballots

Bishop Wright announced that the following persons were elected:

Board of Governors, Mikell Camp and Conference Center, elect 2

Brian Cade (St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta)

Laura Lenaeus, (St. Margaret's, Carrollton)

Standing Committee, Lay, elect one

Joy Jones, (St. Paul's, Atlanta)

Standing Committee, Cleric, elect one

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, (St. Edward's/San Eduardo, Lawrenceville; San Bedas, Atlanta)

Elections to Diocesan Board of Review

Bishop Wright nominated, and the Council elected, The Rev. Winston Arthur (St. Michael and All Angels, Stone Mountain) for a five-year term, and Dawn Diedrich (St. Paul's, Atlanta) for a four-year term.

Elections of Diocesan Officers

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

Committee Appointments

Bishop Wright appointed the following to the Committee on Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions: The Rev. Doris Graf Smith, Deacon Letty Guevera-Cuenca, and Alesia Graves.

Report of Canon 20 Compliance Committee

The Rev. Scott Kidd (Church of the Resurrection, Sautee-Nacoochee), Chair of the Canon 20 Appeals Board, reported on parishes' compliance with Diocesan Canon 20 for support of the Diocese's mission and ministry: twelve parishes appealed non-compliance (compared to ten in 2019). Granted in appeals: \$180,226 (compared to \$92,949 in 2019).

Presentation of Financial Report and Proposed Draft Budget

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

Mr. Les Callahan, Chair of the Diocesan Committee on Finance, presented the Proposed Draft Mission and Ministry Budget for 2021, 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 2021.

Other Reports

Bishop Wright called upon The Rev. Canon John Thompson-Quartey, who brought video greetings from The Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe, and the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast.

Bishop's Address To Council

At 10:50 am, Bishop Wright offered The Bishop's Address To Council, which ended at 11:13 am.

Council recessed for Committee Meetings

Bishop Wright recognized The Chair of Dispatch of Business, who gave instructions about Committee Meetings that would commence at 1:30pm.

Bishop Wright recessed the Council for legislative committee meetings at 11:16 am.

COUNCIL IN RECESS

SECOND DAY: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020

Bishop Wright convened the Council at 9:30 am, offered prayers, and recognized Easton Davis, Diocesan Youth Missioner, who announced the youth address, then given by the following: Arianna Cantillo, Bailey Toms, Carter Sessions, Gabby Parchment, Julia Daniels, Will Jordan and Libby Hobbs.

Legislative agenda

Bishop Wright called on the Chair of the Dispatch of Business for reports from legislative committees, who then gave instruction on the procedures for speaking from the virtual floor. The reports were made as shown.

Community Ministries: The Rev. Peter Wallace, moved adoption of Resolution R20-1, as amended in committee, and presented as a substitute resolution, reading as follows:

R20-1 Resolution to Acknowledge First Nations in Georgia

RESOLVED, that the 114th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting virtually on November 13-14, 2020, acknowledge that the people of the Diocese of Atlanta live, work, and minister on land that was the home of native inhabitants in the tens of thousands of years preceding European invasion, and that these First Peoples suffered grievously as a result of transmitted diseases, governmental rivalries, dishonored treaties, and the eventual forced removal from these lands within the borders of the Diocese; and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Diocese of Atlanta shall therefore publicly acknowledge these injustices, pay respect to the First Peoples (including the Cherokee, Muscogee [Creek], Oconee, and others who lived in Middle and North Georgia) upon whose lands the parishes and various ministries of the Diocese of Atlanta are now undertaken, and address justice issues affecting First Peoples living within the boundaries of the Diocese; and.

Be it further RESOLVED that the Bishop's Office form a Task Force of appropriate clergy and lay persons to formulate a plan to fulfill these goals and present it, with a budget if required, to the Bishop's Office for consideration.

Motion carried. Resolution R20-1 adopted as amended.

Community Ministries: The Rev. Jane Weston, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R20-2, as amended in committee, and presented as a substitute resolution, reading as follows:

R20-2, Resolution Opposing Georgia’s Citizen Arrest Law

RESOLVED that the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, representing over 47,000 members in Middle and North Georgia, urges all Members of the Georgia legislature and the Governor of the State of Georgia to support the efforts to abolish citizen’s arrest in Georgia by repealing Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. §§ 17-4-60 to 17-4-62).

Be it further RESOLVED that the Secretary of Council be directed to send—by any convenient means, including e-mail—a copy of this resolution to each Member of the Georgia General Assembly and to the Governor of the State of Georgia.

R19-2 Resolution to Celebrate and Recognize the 150th Anniversary of Appleton Episcopal Ministries

Motion carried. Resolution R20-2 adopted as amended.

Presentation of Diocesan Proposed Draft Budget for 2021

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

The Chair of the Dispatch of Business called on Mr. Les Callahan, Chair of the Department of Finance, who moved that the Proposed Draft Budget for 2021 be adopted in principle and be referred to the Diocesan Executive Board for final action.

Motion carried. Draft Budget referred to Executive Board

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

Report and Resolutions of Memorials and Courtesy Committee

The Rev. Doris Graf Smith, Deacon Letty Guevera-Cuenca, and Alesia Graves. moved the following resolutions that were seconded.

R20-3 Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions

Be it Resolved, that this 114th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, held virtually from the Cathedral of Saint Philip and across Middle and North Georgia, express our appreciation and gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, for his address to council. We were drawn closer to him and his people as we heard of their struggle with Covid-19, causing us to recognize again that we are more alike than different, regardless of the miles that separate our countries. Along with our thanks, we pledge our prayers for your country, and ask you for prayers for ours.

Let it be Resolved that we express our profound appreciation and gratitude to the Diocese of Atlanta's Covid-19 Protocol Task Force members - The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Canon Alicia Schuster Weltner, Jodie Guest, The Rev. Caroline Magee, and Mike McAuliffe - for providing the people in our churches, schools, and pre-schools with accurate safety information, thus allowing us to face this unprecedented time with clear guidelines and guidance so we may continue to worship and proclaim Jesus' Gospel, while protecting ourselves and our communities - our sisters and brothers.

We thoughtfully, with both lament and expectation, acknowledge that this pandemic and the protocols established have closed spaces and imposed many restrictions, including those of table and song; yet even so, different spaces have burst forth and moved us as a community toward establishing new "normals" pulling us forward with faith and love.

Let it be Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Tenth Bishop of Atlanta, as he continues to inspire us, in the call "to challenge... the world to love like Jesus;". Especially, we commend our bishop for leading us spiritually to imagine new directions of love by creating new worship designs such as the *Imagine Church* program.

Therefore, we commend and express sincere thanks to Bishop Wright for giving our Diocese a voice during these hard times of witnessing the continued abusive deaths of African-America citizens due to excessive force and violence by police enforcement in America.

Let it be Resolved, that we encourage and support our Bishop to continue his witness and strong leadership concerning issues such as an end to the death penalty, racist policies, and gender discrimination.

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

Let it be further Resolved, that we send greetings to Mrs. Elizabeth Allan and her family, bidding her good health and much joy as she remains a beloved part of our diocese.

Let it be further Resolved, that we offer our gratitude to Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright, for her encouraging love of our bishop and their family, for her involvement in our diocese in many and varied ways, and for the insights and vulnerabilities she offers us in her books and writings. We pray for her continued joy and a sense of fulfillment in all her pursuits and ambitions.

Let it be further Resolved, that some people are really good at taking the lemons life gives them and turning those into lemonade. Dr. Catherine Meeks is such a person. This council and people in the Diocese of Atlanta offer profound joy for Dr. Meeks being among us and teaching the Diocese with both challenging truths and kindly patience. She has taken on the task to help us become the *beloved community* in ways we could have never imagined. And she is making a difference, not just in Middle and North Ga. but around the country as well. Please accept our prayers and support.

Let it be Resolved, that we express our recognition to The Rev. Kimberly Jackson, Vicar of the Church of the Common Ground, for her commitment to help the needy and her achievement to continue her ministry helping others as a State Senator. May God

continue to guide her so she more and more can be Your loving hands in service to all Georgians.

Be it Resolved, that we express our gratitude to the Bishop and staff of the diocese for working long and hard to figure out how to virtually herd-up a really large bunch of church folks. We commend all the many people who have put forth time and thought to wrap their heads around all the technology that is required. (We do however miss our bagels, cream cheese, donuts, and box lunches. Let the record be clear!)

Let it be Resolved, that we express our humble appreciation for the faithful clergy and laity who have devoutly dug deep into their technology tool boxes to the extent that they have had to throw out/recycle the old tools and *YouTube for* wider, deeper, broader new tools to put into their new boxes in order to manage all the zooming, streaming, “virtualing,” and editing needed to do what we’re doing. (**AND**, it should be noted that parishes might consider “Hair and Makeup” as a line item in future budgets.) We, as a diocese, are blessed with remarkable people with remarkable skills who give with remarkable generosity.

Be it resolved, that we welcome the following clergy to the Diocese of Atlanta: Ann Barker, David Colin Brown, Clayton Harrington, Nicole Lambelet, Edward Lowe, William Thomas (Tommy) Matthews, and Alexander Sherrill, III. and *Let it be resolved that* we commend the following clergy to ministries in other dioceses: priests: Licia Affer, Laura Bryant, Robert Certain, Christopher Cole, Arlette Benoit Joseph, and Nan Kennedy; deacons: Nadine Pope and Anthony Sgro.

Be it resolved, that we send our appreciation and prayers to clergy who have retired Tim Watts and Edith Woodling. We further recognize and commend the service of Tom Quinn who is retiring from the Long-Term Investment Committee of the Diocese after 30 years of guiding and protecting the fiscal security of our Diocese.

Be it resolved, that we, as a people, lament the sins we commit against the dignity of other human beings, knowing that were we to list all of those, we would not finish before remembering more folk we have overtly or covertly treated as *other*. Let our lament be prayer and our prayer be transformation so those hurt and hurting will be healed and violence buried in fields of love. Let it be further resolved that we lament the sin of racism and mourn again all those dead because of the color of their skin.

Let it be resolved that we remember this day all the souls those who had contracted and/died or recovered as a result of the COVID-19 virus: mothers, soldiers, doctors, nurses, fathers, clergy, sisters, cousins, brothers, grandmothers, gardener, teacher, babies, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, firemen, politicians, the man or woman next door, stepparents one and all. Let us declare to wear the mask not for us alone, but in caring memory of our neighbors.

Be it Resolved, that we remember those who have participated in Council and died in the past year, especially, Harwood “Woody” Bartlett, Kent (Buck) Belmore, Harry Carlsen, Steve Hall, Robert Hunter, Dean Johnson, Melissa Lee Kean, Scott May, Katherine Roberts, SSAP; Walter Smith, Charles “Charlie” Edward Gearing, Carla Hungat, and Jackie Hodoval. And we remember three soldiers of Equality who died this year: Congressman John Lewis, the Rev. C.T. Vivian and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery.

Motion carried. Resolution adopted.

Bishop Wright offered prayer for the departed persons.

Closing announcements and adjournment

Bishop Wright gave his recognition and thanks to all who assisted in the 114th Council.

Bishop Wright adjourned the Council *sine die* at around 1:00 am, until November 12-13, 2021.

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

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