

MINUTES
Ninety-ninth Annual Council
Diocese of Atlanta

The Ninety-ninth Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met on the campus of Holy Innocent's Episcopal School in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12, 2005, pursuant to a resolution of the Ninety-eighth Annual Council. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, ninth Bishop Diocesan of Atlanta was in the Chair. The North Atlanta Convocation, The Very Rev. Eddie J. Ard, Dean, was the host.

FIRST DAY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005

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

Call to order, quorum call, and organization for business

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander called the council to order at 10:05 a.m. with prayer. The Secretary, the Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, announced that a quorum was present, based on the registration records of Lay Delegates and Clergy Members. The Council was organized for business.

Agenda adopted

The Council unanimously approved the proposed agenda as published.

Recognition of St. Nicholas' Hamilton, host convocation and The Rt. Rev. Mdimi Mhogolo
Bishop Alexander recognized the Delegates and The Rev. Beverley T. McEachern, of St. Nicholas', Hamilton, for their achievement in changing from unaided parish status.

The Very Rev. Eddie J. Ard, Dean of North Atlanta Convocation, and The Rev. David A. Galloway, Rector of Holy Innocent's, Atlanta, and Kirk Duncan, Headmaster of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, addressed the council. Dean Ard welcomed the council on behalf of the convocation and named its constituent parishes and thanked those responsible for preparing for the council's meeting. Dr. Galloway thanked the staffs of Holy Innocents' and the school. Mr. Douglas spoke of the school's renovations and additions and addressed the meaning of an Episcopal school and its mission.

Bishop Alexander welcomed the Rt. Rev. Mdimi Mhogolo, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika of the Anglican Church of the Province of Tanzania.

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of the Annual Council Department, made housekeeping announcements.

Recognition of first time delegates

Bishop Alexander asked first-time Lay Delegates to stand for recognition. They did.

Announcement of Convocation Deans

Bishop Alexander announced the following clerics are deans of convocations: North Atlanta, Eddie J. Ard; Chattahoochee Valley, W. Douglas Hahn; East Atlanta, William T. Deneke, Macon, Dan T. Edwards, Marietta, James T. Nixon; Northwest Georgia, C. Dean Taylor; Northeast Metro, Kent A. Branstetter, North and East Georgia, Amanda B. Brady.

Clergy Data

Bishop Alexander introduced new clergy who have transferred to the diocese since the last Council: C. Christian Pierce, US Army Chaplain, Fort Benning, GA, from Springfield, Richard J. Martindale, rector, Trinity, Columbus, from Nebraska; Sipo Mzimela, associate, St.

Bartholomew's, Atlanta, from New Jersey; Bradford R. Smith, assistant, St. Matthew's, Snellville, from East Tennessee; and Nancy Shepherd, rector, St. George's, Griffin from Connecticut, arriving in December 2005. He noted that Rock Schuler, rector, Christ Church, Norcross, had transferred from Pennsylvania before the 2004 Council but had not been introduced then because he was on his honeymoon and the Bishop had excused his absence.

Bishop Alexander named the clergy who have been ordained since the previous Council. Those at churches in the diocese are Deacon Charles Castles, Holy Comforter, Atlanta; Priests Todd R. Dill, St. David's, Roswell; Mary K. Erickson, St. Martin in the Fields, Atlanta; Beau Farr, St. Anthony's, Winder; Elizabeth M. Knowlton, St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta; Harold Lockett, Absalom Jones Center; P. Lang Lowrey, St. Anne's, Atlanta; George M. Maxwell, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta; Hunt Priest, St. Paul's, Newnan; Ellen E. Purdum, St. Anne's, Atlanta; Patrick Skutch, St. Martin in the Fields, Atlanta; and J. Eric Thompson, US Army Chaplain, Fort Benning, GA. Sandra McCann is in Dar es Salaam, Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Those who moved to churches in other dioceses are Timothy Burger, Aimee Delevett, Sarah Fisher, John Gedrick, John Hamilton, Rebekah Hatch, Jessica Hitchcock, Steven Mosher, Wendy Porter, and Theresa Tilley.

Parish anniversaries noted

Bishop Alexander noted these parish anniversaries this year: St. Anne's, Atlanta, 50 years; St. Paul's, Atlanta, 125 years; Christ Church, Macon, 180 years.

Dispatch of business

The Rev. Hazel S. Glover, Dispatch of Business announced guidelines for the conduct of the business of the Council.

Introduction and referral of resolutions to legislative committees

The Secretary, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, moved the following pre-filed resolutions for action on behalf of their proponents. Each was seconded. Bishop Alexander referred them to the Council Legislative Committee as shown.

C05- 1, Revision of Canon 20, Of the Funding of the Ministry and Mission of the Diocese of Atlanta, from Canon 20 Task Force; to Canons and Constitution and to Finance

C05-2, Amendment of Constitution Article 3, elections to be decided by plurality and not majority of votes cast, from East Atlanta Convocation; to Constitution and Canons

R05-1, Create task force for ministry to returning veterans, from The Rev. Benno T. Pattison, St. Luke's, Atlanta; to Liturgy

R05-2, Create task force to study current administration's policies regarding the environment, from The Rev. Benno T. Pattison, St. Luke's, Atlanta; to Community Ministries

Miller Andrews, Holy Family, Jasper, proposed an amendment to C05-1; Bishop Alexander referred the proposal to Constitution and Canons and to Finance for consideration.

There were no other resolutions.

Appointment of Chief Teller

Bishop Alexander appointed Mr. W. James Squier, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, as Chief Teller. Vergers from the several diocesan parishes served as tellers.

First ballot taken

Unless otherwise indicated, the nominees were previously announced before Council. The nominations in each election were closed when there were no further nominees.

Unopposed elections

The Council unanimously elected the following nominees who had no opposition:

Mikell Camp and Conference Center Board of Governors: Molly McAuliffe, The Rev. Joshua T. Condon

Appleton Family Ministries Board of Governors: The Rev. J. Wesley Smith, Nancy White

Ecclesiastical Trial Court, Clerical Member: The Rev. Jamie Stutler, nominated by the Secretary

Cathedral of St. Philip Trustee: The Rev. Ellen E. Purdum, nominated by the Secretary

A ballot then taken for the offices shown from among the following persons.

Standing Committee, Clerical Member: W. Douglas Hahn, Douglas G. Daily, Camille S. Hegg

Standing Committee, Lay Member: Richard Deacon, Ben R. Wells, Robert Wood

Ecclesiastical Trial Court, Lay Member: Paul S. Davison, Esq., The Hon Duross Fitzpatrick

Sewanee, University of the South, Trustee: George Williamson, John Evans, Leonard Parks, Jr., Loren McSwain

Election of Diocesan Officers and the Diocesan Review Committee

Bishop Alexander nominated and the Council elected the following persons to the offices shown:

Chancellor, Richard P. Perry, Esq.

Vice Chancellor, Thomas H. Christopher, Esq.

Treasurer, Mr. Gary Pannell

Secretary, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson

Diocesan Review Committee: The Rev. John F. McCard, Three year term; The Rev. Mary P. Johnson, three year term, and Nedra Wick, Esq., two year term.

Appointment of Committees on Memorials and the Bishop's Address

Bishop Alexander appointed these Committee members:

Memorials: The Rev. Robert C. Wright, chair; Mr. Bill Anderson; Ms. Liz Schelleringhoudt.

Bishop's Address: The Rev. Dan T. Edwards, chair; The Rev. William L. Combs; The Rev. Carrie P. Grindon; Ms. Erin Braden; Ms. Karen Kassinger; Mr. Wayne Pickeral

Announcements and reports

Bishop Alexander announced that all diocesan committee, board, and commission reports had been posted on the diocesan web site before Council convened.

The Rev. Canon Debra M. Shew introduced Ms. Kirstin Laurens, a senior member of the Episcopal Relief and Development staff. She reported on ERD work, especially in Pakistan after the earthquake. She presented a Power Point description of ERD goals and current activities.

Reports by Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee

Mr. Gary Pannell, Diocesan Treasurer, reported on the financial status of the diocese: some reserve funds had to be transferred for operations, though not many.

Mr. Steven Burnett, Chair of Diocesan Finance Committee, reported that again, for the fifth or sixth year, the auditors had rendered a clean report.

Mr. Gary Roberts, Chair of the budget commission, introduced the Proposed Draft Budget for the Mission and Ministry of the Diocese. Copies had been furnished the Council. He stated there had to be many cuts in requests and tough decisions made. The draft provides three scenarios based on three levels of income. Parishes provide eighty-five percent of the budgeted income.

Report on Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry

Ms. Viki Partin, Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, reported on its work. The Ministry has set a \$25,000 goal to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Report on Diocese of Central Tanganyika

The Rev. Canon Charles M. Roper and The Rev. W. Douglas Hahn reported on the relationship of the diocese with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the ministry of the Rev. Sandra and Dr. Martin McCann there.

Introduction of Resolution R05-3

The Rev. Jeffrey P. Cave, Holy Cross, Decatur, moved Resolution R05-3, Support Moratorium on Death Penalty in Georgia. It was seconded. Bishop Alexander referred it to the legislative committee on Community Matters.

Miscellaneous announcements

Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee announced lunch procedures and urged members to visit the displays.

The Rev. Hazel S. Glover announced that the Diocesan Resource Center has a guide book available for parishes, formerly costing \$25.00, is now available for \$10.00.

Noonday prayers and recess for lunch

The Rev. P. Lang Lowrey led noonday prayers.

The Council was in recess for lunch at 12:19 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.

Council reconvened

Bishop Alexander reconvened the Council at 1:25 p.m. The Rev. John H. Westerhoff III led prayers.

An impressive parade of banners with the theme of the coming centennial marched through the hall during the singing of *O God our help in ages past*.

Results of first ballot

Bishop Alexander announced the following elections:

Ecclesiastical Trial Court, Lay Member: Paul S. Davison, Esq.

Second ballot taken

A ballot was taken for the following offices between the persons listed:

Standing Committee, Lay Member: Ben Wells, Robert Wood

Standing Committee, Clerical Member: W. Douglas Hahn, Camille S. Hegg

Sewanee, University of the South, Trustee: John Evans, George Williamson

Bishop's Address

Bishop Alexander relinquished the Chair at 1:40 p.m. to the Secretary, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, who called for the Bishop's address. Bishop Alexander addressed the Council. He resumed the chair at 2:32 p.m.

Results of second ballot

Bishop Alexander announced the following elections:

Standing Committee, Lay Member: Ben Wells

Standing Committee, Clerical Member: W. Douglas Hahn

Sewanee, University of the South, Trustee: John Evans

Telling the story

The Rev. E. Claiborne Jones, Director of Emmaus House, and The Rev Mark E. Moline, Vicar of Holy Comforter, Atlanta, and the Rev. Kenneth C. Struble , Director of Mikell Camp and Conference Center and Ms. Chris Watson, sixteen year old volunteer at Mikell and Emmaus House and member of the Diocesan Youth Council., reported on their ministries.

The Rev. E. Claiborne Jones outlined the ministries being done at Emmaus House. The Rev. Kenneth C. Struble reported that in 2006 Mikell Camp and Conference Center will lose the \$91,000 supplement from the diocesan mission and ministry budget. The last three years have seen a \$ 100,00 reduction, employees have been reduced to eight, and income will not meet expenses in 2006. He urged the Council to support the proposed revision of Canon 20. The Rev. Mark E. Moline reported that Holy Comforter is where the Gospel is proclaimed and lived, and it is an exciting place.

Ms. Chris Watson stated that Mikell is a place for all of God's children. The staff are positive role models. She drives over thirty miles every Saturday to take part in the art program at Emmaus House.

The group sang *I love to tell the story* accompanied by Bishop Alexander on the keyboard.

Recognition of clergy retirements and ordination anniversaries

Bishop Alexander recognized these clergy:

Priests who retired since the previous Council but still are working: Jeffrey P. Cave, Interim at Holy Cross, Decatur; Peter Courtney, Interim at St. Teresa's, Acworth; James K. Yearly, at St. Peter's, Rome; and John H. Westerhoff III, teaching at the General Seminary, New York City.

Priests' ordination anniversaries in 2005:

50 years, Harold R. Bott, retired; Derwent A. Suthers, retired, St. Martin in the Fields; James D. Curtis, retired ; Gorge E. Home, retired; Harry H. Pritchett (Diocese of New York) retired, Cathedral of St. Philip; Bruce M. Shortell, retired; Charles D. Hackett, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta

25 years, Beverley T. McEachern, St. Nicholas', Hamilton; Grant LeRoux, recently interim at St. Stephen's, Milledgeville

Challenge issued

Jill Haddon, St. Columba's, Johns Creek spoke to a point of personal privilege. Recalling the presentation earlier by Ms Kirstin Laurens, she challenged each one at Council to give \$15.00 or more to Episcopal Relief and Development, giving The Rev. Canon Debra M. Shew the checks.

Special report by Canon 20 Task Force

The Rev. J. Wesley Smith, Chair of the Canon 20 Task Force reported on the proposed revision of Canon 20 [Resolution C05-1] with a Power Point presentation, noting: Principal points: Present Canon dates to 1994, asks parishes to contribute ten percent of operating income for diocesan mission, but basically is voluntary; in 2005, 48 of 93 parishes (52 %) pledged less than ten percent; this means programs, such as Mikell Camp and Conference Center, Emmaus House, and Holy Comforter, Atlanta, must be cut; if all parishes contributed ten percent, the \$500,000 deficit would be eliminated; reserve funds are being used to make up the shortfall in order to have the canonically mandated balanced budget. At his request, the Council members read Section 1 of the proposal that is the Task Force's theological basis for the proposed revision. He outlined salient points of the proposal: ten percent of operating income is the minimum parish contribution; parishes who do not meet this standard will incur consequences, for example, t their clergy and laity representatives in Council may not speak or vote on certain matters, and parishes that do not meet this standard for two years will be changed to the status of Aided Parish because, in effect, other parishes are supporting them. However, there is a pastoral, not a punitive, aspect: there will be a Assessment Appeal Board, drawn from a broad representation from the diocese, to whom a parish that cannot meet the ten percent minimum can appeal and which may reduce its percentage to less than ten.

The members of the Task Force stood and were recognized by the Council

Bishop Alexander adjourned the Council at 3:45 p.m. until 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 12 November 2006.

Legislative committees met at 4:00 p.m.

Bishop Alexander celebrated the Holy Eucharist, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Bishop Mhogolo preached. The alms were designated for Episcopal Relief and Development.

There was a reception for those attending Council beginning at about 6:45 p.m.

Second Day Saturday, 12 November 2005

Bishop Alexander reconvened the council at 9:06 a.m.

The Rev. Ellen E. Purdum led the Council in prayer. The Council sang *I've Got Peace Like a River*, accompanied by Bishop Alexander on the keyboard.

Address by Bishop Mhogolo

The Rt. Rev. Mdimi Mhogolo addressed the council about how he sees the Anglican Communion at this time.

Report on Diocese of Tanganyka guest house

The Rev. Benno D. Pattison and The Rev. D. Geoffrey Taylor reported that the clergy at the recent Conference raised \$12,000 for a guest house in Tanganyka, and the bishop raised it to \$16,000. They challenged the clergy present to contribute more. The money will be presented to Bishop Mhogolo. The real need is for housing for visitors to the theological community at Bishop Mhogolo's diocese.

Recognition of the Rev. John A. Via

Bishop Alexander recognized and complimented The Rev. John A. Via for his many years as Dean of the North & East Convocation.

Report on the Episcopal Charities Foundation

The Rev. James T. Nixon and The Rev. Canon Debra M. Shew spoke about the Episcopal Charities Foundation's ministry. Mr. Fred Agel, outgoing Chair of the Foundation, spoke.

After several attempts, a video with the theme that "clergy should not go overboard" was shown. It showed a priest of the diocese in a skydiving mode.

Legislative committee reports

Richard P. Perry, Esq., Chair of *Constitution and Canons* and The Rev. J. Wesley Smith, Chair of the *Special Canon 20 Task Force*, reported on Resolution C05-1. Two proposed amendments were rejected by the Task Force committee. The Constitution and Canons Committee proposed three changes to the original wording and moved the revision as a substitute amendment. The Chair of the Task Force concurred.

Text of C051s, including proposed changes, reads as follows

C05-01s

Resolved, that Canon 20 of the funding of the Diocese of Atlanta be changed in full with the new canon to read as follows:

Of the Funding of the Ministry and Mission of the Diocese of Atlanta

Section 1. We the people, clergy, and parishes of the Diocese of Atlanta acknowledge our need to give of our time, talent, and treasure for the work of Christ. We further embrace our strong heritage — expressed both in the Bible and in long standing Tradition — of parishes supporting one another and joining together to accomplish the work of Christ. We acknowledge our responsibility to support the episcopacy and to provide for the mission of the Church. We recognize the tithe as the minimum standard of biblical giving, and we acknowledge the important example our parishes provide to parish members by practicing the tithe. Finally, we feel strongly the bonds we have toward one another as members of the Body of Christ. We therefore desire that funding of the ministry and mission of the Diocese be accomplished fairly and equitably, within a framework that promotes both compassion and accountability. We seek a framework in which no parish will be required to contribute more than a fair share, and no parish will be allowed to contribute less than a fair share. To these ends:

Section 2. Ten percent (a tithe) of the average of the past three years' Net Operating Revenue (as reported on the Annual Parochial Report) shall be the minimum amount each parish shall give in support of the Ministry and Mission Budget of the Diocese. On or before June 15 of each year, the Finance Committee shall give notice to each parish of its ten-percent minimum contribution (based on its Annual Parochial Report data) for the Mission and Ministry Budget of the Diocese for the upcoming year. In the event that a parish has not filed a timely Annual Parochial Report, the Finance Committee shall use the previous year's report *most recently filed report in its calculations*. Should the parish subsequently file an Annual Parochial Report showing Net Operating Revenues differing from that used in the computation, the Finance Committee shall adjust the required contribution to the Budget of the Diocese, as appropriate.

Section 3. For most parishes, the ten-percent minimum will be an appropriate fair share. For some parishes an appropriate fair-share may be a voluntary contribution of more than ten-percent. Because of extenuating circumstances, a parish may be unable to give the ten-percent minimum and shall be afforded an appeal opportunity as described herein. Not later than August 15, all parishes shall acknowledge, in writing to the Director of Finance, their commitment to give ten-percent, more than ten percent, or state their intent to appeal.

Section 4. Any parish believing that, for good cause, it will be unable to give a minimum of ten percent to the Budget of the Diocese may file a written appeal signed by the Rector (or Vicar) and Senior Warden not later than August 15 with an Assessment Appeal Board. The Assessment Appeal Board shall meet with representatives of the parish filing an appeal. The parish will be given an opportunity to request a reduction from the ten-percent minimum contribution for the year in question. The Assessment Appeal Board shall operate pursuant to guidelines and timelines provided by the Executive Board. In making its determination, the Assessment Appeal Board shall consider, among other factors, the parish's current monthly financial report, the level of stewardship training and education in the parish, the nature of the annual stewardship campaign in the parish, any extraordinary circumstances faced by the parish, and other data as considered relevant by the parish and the Assessment Appeal Board. After such review, the Assessment Appeal Board may reduce the percentage of the assessment for that parish for that year or affirm that ten percent is a minimum assessment. Such decision, and the reasons therefore, shall be communicated in writing to the Rector (or Vicar) and Senior Warden, the Bishop, Executive Board, and the Director of Finance of the Diocese. In the event that the Assessment Appeal Board grants a reduction, that Board shall refer the parish to the Commission on Stewardship and the Commission for Congregational Growth and Development. These Commissions will assist the parish leadership in developing a plan to enhance stewardship and enable the parish to increase its giving to the ten-percent minimum.

Section 5. In the event that annual contributions from any parish fall short of the minimum ten-percent or the reduced amount set by the Assessment Appeal Board, at the next Annual Council of the Diocese *the Lay Delegates and Clergy Members* of that parish will be denied vote on all matters of business and denied voice regarding matters related to finance or the expenditure of diocesan funds. In addition, such parishes shall not call any assistant or associate clergy, nor fill vacancies for such clergy. In the second successive year of not contributing the fair-share amount, any such parish shall, by operation of this canon, have its status changed to that of an Aided Parish of this Diocese.

Section 6. The Assessment Appeal Board shall consist of three lay and three cleric members. The Executive Board, with the consent of the Bishop, shall appoint these six members of the Assessment Appeal Board for a three year term. Initially, the Executive Board shall establish staggered classes of this board, with two people sitting for a one year term, two people for a two year term, and the final two for a full three year term. Thereafter, the Executive Board shall appoint two members each year to serve a full three year term. The Bishop shall appoint annually a convener as a seventh member, who will vote only to break ties. The Executive Board will make a good faith effort to appoint members of the Assessment Appeal Board as follows: two will be appointed from parishes having Net Operating Revenues in the upper one-third of the diocese, two will be appointed from parishes having Net Operating Revenues in the middle one-third of the diocese, and two will be appointed from parishes having Net Operating Revenues in the lower one-third of the diocese. In addition, the Executive Board will make a good faith effort to ensure broad geographical representation on the Assessment Appeal Board.

Section 7. Every congregation in the Diocese shall include in its annual budget the amount of its fair-share contribution (assessment) for the support of the Mission and Ministry Budget of the Diocese. One twelfth *A portion* of the annual contribution is to be paid to the Diocese on or before the twentieth day of each month.

Section 8: The Executive Board shall prepare a tentative Diocesan Mission and Ministry Budget and send it to each Vestry. Each Vestry shall, by a date set by the Executive Board, consider the mission and ministry priorities of the Diocese and report recommended changes in the Ministry and Mission Budget to the Executive Board. The Executive Board, in its discretion, may develop additional means of soliciting recommendations from the people and parishes of the Diocese. When the process for receiving such recommendations is ended, the Executive Board, with the assistance of the chairs of Diocesan commissions, committees, and the Diocesan staff, shall develop a Proposed Ministry and Mission Budget that reflects the mission priorities of the Diocese.

Section 9. Council shall consider the Proposed Mission and Ministry Budget, make amendments as desired, and approve and return the resulting Proposed Mission and Ministry Budget to the Executive Board. Using the Proposed Mission and Ministry Budget approved by Council, the Executive Board shall establish and adopt the Mission and Ministry Budget in its final form. Copies of the budget in its final form shall be mailed to all Vestries. The Executive Board shall give direction to and administer the gross amounts budgeted through its various departments. The Treasurer shall make a detailed financial status report for the previous and current year to Council in session.

Section 10. This canon shall take effect on January 1, 2006 in preparation for the 2007 budget year.

The Rev. Paul H. Norris moved to delete the words “the Clergy Members and” from Section 5. Debate on the Norris amendment followed.

**Motion failed
Norris amendment defeated**

Debate on C05-1s substitute amendment followed. The question was called.

**Motion carried
Substitute amendment adopted**

A vote was taken on C05-1s as amended.

C05-1s adopted with amendment

Constitution and Canons: Richard Perry, Esq., Chair, moved rejection of Resolution C05-2. Original text of C05-2 reads as follows.

C05-2

Resolved, that Article 3, Section 2 of the *Constitution of the Diocese of Atlanta* be amended to delete the word “majority” and replace it with the word “plurality”.

There was no debate.

**Motion carried
Resolution C05-2 defeated**

Liturgy: The Rev. Canon Todd D. Smelser, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution R05- 1 with amendment to read as follows.

R05-1a

Be it resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta create a task force to *Diocesan Liturgy Commission* draft a specific liturgy/ies that will welcome these persons home and offer a liturgy for healing, penance, absolution and strength *and thanksgiving*; and

Be it further resolved, that these liturgies will be forwarded to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church for consideration and to military chaplains and staff serving on military bases in the Diocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Georgia (with the permission of the Bishop of Georgia).

Motion carried
Resolution R05-1 adopted with amendment

Community Ministries :The Rev. Canon Debra M. Shew, Chair, moved adoption of a substitute to Resolution R05-2.

Original text of Resolution R05-2 reads as follows.

Be it resolved, that a task force be formed to study the current administration's policies regarding the environment and to submit such study to the Bishop and people of the Diocese of Atlanta and to current national leaders of government to commend or deplore their work in safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Text of Resolution R05-2 as amended by substitute reads as follows.

R05-2s

Be it resolved, that a commission be formed to study the current personal, societal, corporate, church and governmental practices and policies and to submit such study to the Bishop and people of the Diocese of Atlanta at each diocesan council and to current leaders of government to assist their work in safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Motion carried
Resolution R05-2 adopted as amended

The Rev. Canon Debra A. Shew moved adoption of a substitute to Resolution R05-3.
Text of original Resolution R03-3 reads as follows.

R05-3

Resolved, that this 99th Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta supports legislation placing a moratorium on executions while the state reviews our state's death penalty and address all areas in which we may not be in full compliance with standards of basic fairness.

Text of Resolution R05-3 as amended by substitute reads as follows.

R05-3s

Now, therefore, *be it resolved* that this 99th Council of the Diocese of Atlanta supports legislation placing a moratorium on executions while the General Assembly reviews our state's death penalty to determine whether it should be continued in force and to address all areas in which the criminal procedures in force in Georgia may not be in full compliance with contemporary standards of procedural fairness, taking into account the findings of the Special Committee of the American Bar Association now studying the application of the criminal death penalty in Georgia; and be it further

Resolved, that this Resolution be communicated to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House as an expression of the Council's desire that such legislation be introduced, considered and enacted at the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia.

Debate on Resolution C05-3 followed.

Motion carried
Resolution R05-3s adopted with substitute amendment

Introduction of The Rev. Sabina Alkire

The Rev. Canon Debra M. Shew introduced The Rev. Dr. Sabina Alkire, Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, who spoke of the need to raise awareness regarding global poverty. Canon Shew reported that the alms at the preceding evening's Eucharist was \$2,907, and that \$1,022.62 was received for bottled water on tables.

Legislative committee reports resumed

Finance: Mr. Steven Burnett, Chair, reported: revised Canon 20 will not come to fruition until 2007, so 2006 will be a challenge; committee discussed proposed budget program cuts in mission and ministry areas; sends proposed budget to Council with a challenge to the Executive Board and Budget Committee to reexamine it and consider moving some money around so that Mikell Camp and Conference Center, Holy Comforter, and Emmaus House can be covered. Committee recommends that Council receive this proposed draft budget and refer it to the Executive Board to prepare a balanced budget for the mission and ministry of the diocese on 1 January 2006.

Bishop Alexander noted that only about twenty per cent of parish pledges have been received, that it still is a draft, and that he is gratified by the horror the draft has created among Council members and the diocesan community.

Extensive debate on the proposed draft budget took place.

The Rev. B. Carl Buice, a member of the Diocesan Executive Board, moved that the Council adopt Scenario B in the Proposed Draft Budget [calls on all parishes not at the ten percent pledging level to increase pledge for 2006 by one percent] instead of Scenario A [uses 2005 percentage levels of pledging] for referral to the Executive Board

Buice Motion carried
Proposed Draft Budget, Scenario B, adopted

The Council stood and applauded the work of the person involved in the budgeting process.

Announcements

The Rev. Roger H. Ard reported that a study committee formed to consider same-sex unions and formation of a liturgy for blessing of such unions [requested by Resolution R04-13] hopes next year to present a document to Council to recommend direction of diocese. In the meantime, asked for prayers, concern, and suggestions.

The Rev. E. Claiborne Jones, Chair of General Convention Deputies, spoke about proposed meetings across the diocese in May 2006. She recognized all clergy who went to Camp Post Care in Mississippi.

Bishop Alexander offered a week at his home in Sewanee for a silent auction to benefit Holy Comforter.

Gii Peterson, Chair of Committee on Global Relations,, requested each parish designate a contact person and report any work the parish doing in mission , overseas or domestically. The Last Sunday after Epiphany, 26 February 2006. is designated Global Mission Day.

The Rev. B. Carl Buice reported on the work of Appleton Family Ministries, noting that it is funded only by income from a small trust fund and from the canonically required Thanksgiving Offering.

Bishop Alexander reported receiving several e-mails from the Rev. Sandra McCann [diocesan priest working in Diocese of Central Tanganyika] and the new wireless computer system seems to be working. He noted that clergy spouses are at his home with Lynn. Spouses will take a trip to Camp Post Care in Mississippi.

Kids for Peace

Kids for Peace comprises teams of twelve children from the Diocese of Atlanta and twelve children from Jerusalem. Over the past four years over one hundred children have had their lives changed because of the program. The Kids sang for the Council, prayed, and presented Bishop Alexander with a coffee mug.

Committee reports resumed: date and place of 2006 Annual Council

The Very Rev. Dan T. Edwards, Dean of Macon Convocation, moved Resolution R05-4, reading as follows.

R05-4

Resolved, that the City of Macon is a fitting place to commence the celebration of the Centennial Year for the Diocese of Atlanta in that the formative Council for our Diocese was held in Macon on December 4 and 5, 1907;

Macon is home to Christ Church, our oldest parish church (1825), and since 1870 also has been the location for historic Appleton Ministries which has been housed at St. Paul's; St. Francis', and now St. James';

Macon has sent various priests on to our Atlanta churches and then on to the Diocesan Center, including the Rt. Rev. Randolph Claiborne, the Rt. Rev. Frank Allan, and the Rev. Woody Bartlett, who have exercised decisive leadership in the direction of our Diocese;

the Macon convocation, which has given Georgia a rich cultural legacy, remains a center of spiritual inspiration through music and literature;

historic Macon is home to the ancient Indian Mounds and numerous museums including the largest museum in the South dedicated to African American art and culture; Macon also having been the scene of memorable events in the struggle for Civil Rights – all this constituting our city as a uniquely appropriate place to remember our journey and our heritage;

therefore, the Macon Convocation cordially invites the Diocese of Atlanta to meet in Macon for its 100th gathering, November 10 and 11, 2006 as a worthy beginning of its Centennial Celebration.

**Motion carried
Resolution R05-4 adopted**

Report of Committee on Bishop's Address

Bishop's Address: The Rev. Dan T. Edwards, Chair, reported as follows.

Bishop Alexander, Bishop Mhogolo, good people of our Diocese,

On behalf of the Committee on the Bishop's Address, I wish to say we are humbled and honored to engage in dialogue with our spiritual leader in the presence of this assembly. Our response to the Bishop's address is a hearty but a nuanced "Amen."

Let us first respond to the address in general before turning to specifics. We experienced the Bishop's Address not as a report on the State of the Church so much the State of the Spirit. We particularly understood his words to be an invocation of the Spirit of generosity and an invitation to practice generosity of Spirit. We see the Spirit's movement in the ministries of Emmaus House, Holy Comforter, and Camp Mikell. The spirit of generosity blows when we support the Millennium Development Goals and Episcopal Relief and Development, when we respond to massive suffering in Mississippi, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, when we find a way to preserve the mission of Camp Mikell, and when we resolve to fund the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

The Bishop's address began, as the spiritual life must, in thanksgiving. Gratitude is the ground of generosity, and of faith in the abundance of grace. It is faith in God's abundance that opens our eyes to the feasibility of the Millennium Development Goals, and it is gratitude that inspires us to share our earthly blessings by eradicating severe poverty from the face of the earth.

So the Bishop began with his own expressions of gratitude. We, in turn, wish to express our gratitude to Bishop Alexander for his tireless service. We are mindful that he is a solo bishop with 93 parishes, and that he has for five years been making multiple episcopal visits to parishes on single weekends, even on the same day. We are also mindful of the additional challenges he has faced in holding us together these past few years.

We also wish to express our regret for the personal sorrows and hardships that our Bishop has experienced this year, particularly the deaths of loved ones. We pray for his consolation and wish him a fun-filled vacation in Paris, where he may replenish the *joi de vivre* and physical health which sustain us in ministry.

We enthusiastically and unanimously endorse the Bishop's request that we covenant with one another to adequately fund our Diocesan Mission and Ministries. We believe such funding to be consonant with our Anglican sense of the Church and also the right and proper response to the grace we receive each week through the Church's ministry.

Bishop Alexander described his episcopacy as "shared ministry." Indeed he has set us a good example. For all of our ministry is "shared." If we are ministering on behalf of the Body of Christ, of which we are all members, then our ministry depends on each others support. We are responsible for each others ministry and responsible to each other, bound in faith to mutual support.

We believe that the proposed Canon 20 or some similar process is potentially good for us, not just in that it will give us the benefit of a Diocesan staff adequate to the size of our Diocese, but also it will be good for our souls, because it will give formal structure and expression to our spiritual covenant.

We are particularly pleased with the establishment of the Appeal Board. We hope and expect that the Appeal Board will take into account more than the financial circumstances of parishes seeking relief from the assessment. While most of the parishes not paying 10% are acting under financial constraints rather than in a spirit of protest, there are now and will be again in the future, parishes that resist paying the assessment as a result of disagreements with the larger church. We believe the Appeal Board can be a forum for discussion with such parishes and that with the exercise of patience, pastoral flexibility, and forbearance, relationships may be healed and restored. For example, we understand that the withholding of funds from the Diocese as a form of protest is not the Anglican way of doing things; so if a parish should fall into that error, an educational program in the Anglican understanding of the Church might be helpful. We see the virtue of the Appeal Board process as its ability to gather people in discord to our family table to reason together.

We are concerned that some parishes who have been distanced from Diocese may see the new Canon 20 as a threat and a coercion. We know, however, that our Bishop has worked long hours, and endured much personal stress, in his struggle to restore relations with parishes and groups within parishes when they have been angry with the larger church. It is our hope and expectation that the Appeal Board will follow the example of our Bishop and act compassionately, pastorally, and pragmatically to do its utmost to heal and unify the Body of Christ.

In discussing the Windsor Report, Bishop Alexander made reference to the words of Paul, "For the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life. . . . Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit is, there is freedom."

The primacy of the Spirit over the letter of the law is applicable not only to Windsor Report, but also to Canon 20. The Spirit of our canons is one of love and unity, not judgment and exclusion. We fully expect the Appeal Board to be as restrained and gentle as faithfulness to our

covenant allows. We sincerely hope that all the parishes will soon come to see and to trust the true Spirit of our unity in Christ, and know that our canons are meant as the visible structure of love, and “there is no room for fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear.”

Memorials Committee: The Rev. Robert Wright, Chair, reported as follows.

St. George’s, Griffin, expresses its deep appreciation to The Rev. Newell Graham for his able and patient service for the past two years as Interim Rector.

The Council sends greetings to The Rev. Sandra and Dr. Martin McCann and to Magi Griffin, our missionaries in Tanzania, reminding them of our affection, prayers, and ongoing support.

The Council expresses thanksgiving for the presence among us of the Rt. Rev. Mdm Mhogolo for embodying to us the bonds of affection that connect the Anglican Communion, with a request that he carry for us to our brothers and sisters in Tanganyika words of affection, gratitude and excitement for growing shared ministries and deepening relationships.

On behalf of the senior citizens of Emmaus House, we honor the lives of Ms. Ethel May Matthews, Mr. Willie Maddox and Mr. Ivan Thrasher. They gave many years of love and service to Emmaus House.

Ms. Matthews devoted her life to changing the welfare system for her people.

Mr. Willie Maddox worked with and for the seniors of Emmaus House.

Mr. Ivan Thrasher was a child of Emmaus House who grew up to be a counselor at Emmaus House and a friend to all who knew and loved him.

We give thanks for and remember the lives of these persons who have died since the previous Council;

Deacon Elsie Gore and Deacon William Mullen

The Rev. Gloria M. Bowden of Absalom Jones University Center

Mr. Barry Staples, Founder and Director of St. Margaret’s Community Outreach in Carrollton, Georgia

Mr. William Colton Alford, St. Andrew’s, Fort Valley

The Rev. Jeffrey Cave spoke to a point of personal privilege.

Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee, gave instructions on lunch.

Bishop Alexander recognized the work of Richard Perry, Esq., Chancellor, Thomas Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor, Mr. W. James Squire, Chief Teller, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary, Mrs. Marcia C. Jenkins, Assistant Secretary, and Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee.

The Council sang *Precious Lord, take my hand*, accompanied by Bishop Alexander on the keyboard.

Bishop Mhogolo dismissed the Council with his blessing.

Bishop Alexander adjourned the Council *sine die* at 12:21 p.m.

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, President

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary