

**Minutes**  
**One Hundred Second Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta**

The One Hundred Second Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta met in the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Decatur, Georgia on Friday and Saturday, November 14th and 15th, 2008, pursuant to a resolution of the One Hundred First Annual Council. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Bishop Diocesan, was in the chair. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop, was present. The East Atlanta Convocation, The Vy. Rev. William T. Deneke, Dean, was the host.

**FIRST DAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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

**Call to order, quorum call, and registration for business**

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander called the Council to order at 100:00 a.m. after 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 and further announced that all but two small parishes were represented and that all parishes were in compliance with Section 6 of Diocesan Canon 20. The Council was organized for business.

**Admission of Lay Delegate from The Church of Christ the King, Lilburn**

The Rev. Dan T. Matthews, Chair of the Diocesan New Starts Committee, presented a petition from Christ the King, Lilburn, to be recognized as a worshipping community with one Lay Delegate seated at this Council, and moved the petition be approved. The motion was seconded.

**Motion carried**

**Delegate recognized and seated**

**Admission of St. Benedict's Parish, New Vinings, in communion with the Council**

The Rev. Dan T. Matthews, Chair of the Diocesan New Starts Committee, presented a petition from St. Benedict's, New Vinings, to be admitted into union with the Council, stated that the congregation met all requirements of Diocesan Canon 30, and moved the petition be approved. The motion was seconded.

**Motion carried**

**St. Benedict's Parish, New Vinings, admitted into union with the Council**

**Adoption of agenda and reading minutes of previous Council**

On motion and second, the Council adopted the published agenda.

On motion and second, The Council dispensed with reading the minutes of the previous Council.

**Introductions and greetings**

The Vy. Rev. William T. Deneke, Dean of East Atlanta Convocation, welcomed all on behalf of the people and parishes of the Convocation. He explained that the mosquito nets on the tables were reminders for Council attendees to put money in the hand made cups on the tables to furnish mosquito netting to countries plagued with malaria. He presented Peruvian textile stoles from the Church in Peru to the two bishops.

The Hon. James Baskette, Mayor *pro tem.* of the city of Decatur welcomed the Council to Decatur.

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Diocesan Annual Council Committee, welcomed all.

Bishop Alexander welcomed all first time Delegates to Council and asked them to raise their green voting cards. They did.

#### **Announcement of Convocation Deans**

Bishop Alexander announced that the following priests are Deans of Convocations: Chattahoochee Valley, Douglas T. Hahn; East Atlanta, William T. Deneke; Macon, Camille Hegg; Marietta, Robert B. Wood; Mid-Atlanta, Robert C. Wright; North Atlanta, Eddie J. Ard; Northeast Metro, Kent A. Branstetter; North & East Georgia, Douglas G. Dailey; Northwest Georgia, C. Dean Taylor; Southwest Atlanta, Hazel S. Glover

#### **Introductions**

Bishop Alexander introduced the Rt. Rev. Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, Bishop Diocesan of the companion diocese of Rio de Janeiro, Episcopal Church of Brazil, and his wife Dulcy.

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

Bishop Alexander introduced new Clergy Members of Council: Robert D. Certain, Rector of St. Peter and St. Paul, Marietta; R. Lee Peyton, Rector of St. Andrew's, Hartwell; Brent A. Owens, Rector of St. Alban's, Monroe, Troy C. Beecham, Rector of St. John's, College Park; and Jeffrey R. Jackson, Vicar of St. Nicholas', Hamilton.

Bishop Alexander reported clergy and diocesan staff changes since the previous Annual Council:

*Priests retired:* William Anderson, Frank Baltz; William Thomas Martin; Todd Smelser; and

*Priests died:* William S. Bennett, V. Richard Hawkins, John Jay Johnson, William R. Payton, E. Jerome Zeller, and

*Priests ordained:* Edwin Beckham, Emmanuel, Athens; Robert T. M. Book, Priest in Charge of Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta; Hugh M. Grant, St. Luke in the Fields, New York City, NY; Penny A. Nash, St. Patrick's, Atlanta; Thelma (Nikki) Panton, St. Paul's, Atlanta; John F. Herring, All Saints', Atlanta; Stuart C. Higginbotham, St. Benedict's, New Vinings; Julio M. Lema, St. David's, Roswell; and

*Transitional Deacon ordained:* Mary Wetzel, Grace-Calvary, Blairsville; and

*Vocational Deacon ordained:* Georgia Newman, St. Stephen's, Milledgeville; and

*New diocesan staff member:* Ms. Lauren Woody, part-time coordinator of young adult ministries and the animator of DAYA [Diocese of Atlanta Young Adults].

#### **Elections**

Bishop Alexander asked any nominees for diocesan offices to stand if present.

Bishop Alexander appointed Mr. Karl Sachsenmaier, Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, as Chief Teller and authorized him to appoint Tellers from among the Vergers Guild of the Diocese of Atlanta.

Bishop Alexander instructed the Council on voting procedures.  
The Rev. Ruth T. Healy led the Council in prayer.

#### **First ballot taken**

A ballot was taken for elections to the following offices from among the persons shown. Unless otherwise noted, all were nominated before the Council convened.

*Standing Committee, Lay Member:* Mr. David Draper, Ms. Carrie Dumas, Mr. Tim Raasch, Mr. William Harrison

*Standing Committee, Priest Member:* Martin J. Bagay, Dena S. Bearl, Albert G. Daviou, Richard J. Martindale

*Governor, Mikell Camp and Conference Center:* Ms. Shannon Baxter, The Rev. Beverley Elliot, Mr. Mike McAuliffe

*Lay Trustee, University of the South:* Mr. Stephen Burnett, Ms. Barbara Maples, Mr. David Shipps, Sr.

*Clerical Member of Ecclesiastical Trial Court:* John McCard

*Lay Member of Ecclesiastical Trial Court:* Nominated from the floor: Ms. Jennifer Smith, Mr. Clint DeVeaux

*Two Governors, Appleton Family Ministries:* Nominated from the floor: Ms. Tricia Barfield, The Rev. Anne E. Meroney.

#### **Elected without opposition**

*Clergy Member, Ecclesiastical Trial Court:* John F. McCard, St Martin in the Fields, Atlanta

*Governor, Appleton Family Ministries:* Ms. Tricia Barfield, Christ Church, Macon, and The Rev. Anne E. Meroney, St. Christopher's, Perry

Bishop Alexander ruled nominations were closed. The tellers retired to tally the ballots.

#### **Introduction of Resolutions**

The Rev. Hazel S. Glover, Chair of Dispatch of Business, announced guidelines for introduction of resolutions. Bishop Alexander referred the following pre-filed resolutions to the Council legislative committees as shown. No other resolutions were introduced.

C08-1, Emergency Situations: Constitution and Canons

C08-2, Amend Article 2 of Diocesan Constitution: Constitution and Canons

R08-1, Establish a Sunday in Lent as ERD Sunday: Community Ministries

R08-2, Placement of the Poor on the Church's Agenda: Community Ministries

R08-3, Review Canons and Rules of Order on Bishop's Election: Constitution and

Canons

R08-4, Development of Liturgical Rites for Same Gender Unions: Liturgy

R08-5, Repeal 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention Resolution B033: Ministry

R08-6, Appointment of Parish Creation Keepers: Community Ministries

R08-7, Establish Diocesan Disability Accessibility Commission: Community

Ministries

Secretary Atkinson moved Resolutions C08-1 and C08-2, and R08-1 through R08-7 for action by the Council.

### **Appointment of Members of Diocesan Review Committee**

Bishop Alexander appointed, and the Council unanimously ratified, the appointments of the Rev. Benno D. Pattison for a three year term (2011) and Ruth Heppler for a second two year term (2010) to the Diocesan Review Committee. The continuing Members are The Rev. Ruth L. Cummings (2009), Nedra Wick, Esq. (2009, second term), and The Rev. Mary P. Johnson (2010, second term).

### **Election of Diocesan Officers**

Bishop Alexander nominated, and the Council unanimously elected, the following Officers of the Diocese:

Chancellor, Richard P. Perry, Esq.; Vice Chancellor, Thomas H. Christopher, Esq.; Secretary, The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson; Treasurer, Mr. Gary Pannell.

### **Reports**

*Canon 20 Appeal Board:* The Chair, The Rev. Douglas D. Dailey, reported that there were nine parish appeals in 2000 compared to eleven in 2008, and he recognized two parishes for doing their fair share for the Diocesan budget.

*Budget Presentation:* Messrs. Gary Pannell, Treasurer, and Stephen Burnett, Chair of Finance Committee, presented and discussed the Proposed Mission and Ministry Budget. Mr. Pannell reported the Diocese is financially stable. He reviewed the balance sheet and financial statements distributed to the Council Mr. Burnett discussed the report of the auditors.

*Bishop Child Legacy Society:* Mr. Mal Underwood reported on the status of the Society. He encouraged people to visit The Episcopal News Service web site. The Rev. Dr. James C. Curtis, St. John's, College Park, reported receiving enormous support from the Diocesan Stewardship Committee and encouraged participation by lay persons in any offerings by the Committee.

*Episcopal Relief and Development:* Ms. Debbie Betsill, Diocesan Coordinator, reported that in 2008 Atlanta and Macon received funding after tornadoes. The Diocese of Atlanta received \$25,000.

*Introduction of Ms. Diddie Chocallo, Speaker to Council:* The Rev Larry C. Williams, St. Teresa's, Acworth, introduced Ms. Chocallo, a member of that parish.

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

The Rev. Beverly F. Elliott, St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta, led noonday prayers.

The Council was in recess for lunch from 12:00m to 1:02 p.m.

### **Results of first ballot**

Bishop Alexander reported the following elections.

*Governor, Mikell Camp and Conference Center;* Mr. Mike McAuliffe and The Rev. Beverly F. Elliott

*Ecclesiastical Trial Court, Lay Member:* Mr. Clinton DeVeaux.

### **Second ballot taken**

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

*Standing Committee, Lay Member:* Ms. Carrie Dumas and Mr. Tim Raasch

*Standing Committee Priest Member:* Dena S. Bearl and Richard J. Martindale

*Trustee, University of the South:* Messrs. Stephen Burnett and David Shipps, Sr.

The tellers retired to tally the ballots.

### **Bishop's Address**

Bishop Alexander addressed the Council. (Text is attached to minutes)

### **Reports continued**

*Trustee of the University of the South:* The Rev. C. Dean Taylor reported on the status of the university. He noted that the 2008 capital funds campaign was very successful.

*Nativity School at Holy Cross, Decatur:* Mr. Sam Preston reported that St. Lawrence Episcopal Middle School is partnered with Nativity School. Mr. Bill Day of Holy Cross was recognized.

*St. Martin's Episcopal School:* Deacon Edith Woodling, Chaplain, reported.

### **Results of second ballot**

Bishop Alexander reported the following elections:

*Standing Committee, Lay Member:* Ms. Carrie Dumas

*Standing Committee, Clerical Member:* The Rev. Dena S. Bearl

*Trustee, University of the South:* Mr. Stephen Burnett

[This completed all elections.]

### **Video presentation**

Ms. Amanda Meng introduced a video presentation on poverty, addressing specifically women in poverty.

### **Address by The Rt. Rev. Filadelfo Oliveira**

Bishop Oliveira, Bishop Diocesan of Rio de Janeiro, addressed the Council.

### **Parish anniversaries**

Bishop Alexander noted these congregations' fiftieth anniversaries in 2008:

St. James', Clayton; St. Thomas', Columbus; St. Mary's (Sta. Maria), East Point; and St. Augustine's, Morrow

### **Ordination anniversaries**

Bishop Alexander noted these anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood in 2008:

Fifty years: C. Scott May, Charles Robinson, Walter Smith, Louis E. Tonsmeire

Forty years: James A. Clarke, Peter G. Courtney, Robert B. Gibson, Thomas E. Moody, and Gray Temple Jr.

Twenty-five years: Samuel G. Candler, Robert Dendtler, Charles M. Giradeau, J. Eloise Hally, Gene H. Paradise, and William H. Shepherd.

Bishop Alexander recognized the creators of the DYVE program for discerning vocations to the ordained ministry by college seniors and rising seniors: The Rev. Lori Lowe, Director, and The Rev. Nancy Baxter, leader and chaplain.

### **Reports continued**

*Emmaus House, Atlanta:* by The Rev. E. Claiborne Jones, Director and Vicar

*Holy Comforter, Atlanta:* by The Rev. Mike Tanner, Director and Vicar

*Chattahoochee Valley Ministry, Columbus:* by Ms. Vicky Partin, Director  
*Mikell Camp and Conference Center, Toccoa:* by The Rev. Kenneth C. Struble, Director

#### **Announcements**

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee, and The Vy. Rev. William T. Deneke, Dean of East Atlanta Convocation, made administrative announcements.

Bishop Alexander adjourned the Council at 3:12 p.m. until 9:00 a.m., November 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Legislative Committees met to consider matters referred to them. The Council then processed from the Conference Center through Decatur to Holy Trinity Parish Church for the Council Eucharist followed by a reception and art auction.*

#### **SECOND DAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

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

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

The Rev. Benjamin J. Anthony, Emory Episcopal Center, Atlanta, led morning prayers.

Bishop Alexander announced that the results of the art auction held the previous day at Holy Trinity Church will go to Episcopal Relief and Development and are estimated to exceed \$4, 000.

#### **Committee reports continued**

*Appleton Family Ministries:* Ms. Anna Haslbauer, Chair, reported on the Ministries. She noted that Diocesan Canon 24 mandates that a Thanksgiving Day offering be taken for Appleton Ministries. On a personal note of the value of Appleton, she told of her orphaned mother's admission there at age 1½ years, growing up there, and being educated there to permit her to make a living.

*Episcopal Church Women:* Ms. Diane Burrels, ECW President-elect, presented a certificate for \$30,000 from the United Thank Offering to St. Jude's, Marietta, for renovation of five classrooms at the day school.

*Leadership Initiative Task Force:* The Rev. Geoffrey St. J. Hoare, Chair, reported, noting two proposals: colleague groups with mentors/facilitators, and development of a program in which both laity and clergy would meet monthly.

*Task Force on Disability Accessibility:* The Rev. Benno D. Pattison, Chair, reported the Task Force's work, noting that the survey numbers indicate that the Church understands that worship space must be accessible but it has missed how to live with a disability. The Task Force's written report to the Council includes a resolution [R08-7] to change the Task Force to a Diocesan Commission.

*Foundation in Education Program:* Bishop Whitmore reported.

Bishop Alexander recognized the Youth Delegates seated at the Council, noting that they have all privileges of Council including the vote.

*Finance Committee:* Mr. Stephen Bennett, Chair, reported the Committee unanimously endorsed the Proposed Mission and Ministry Budget and recommends frequent communication among the Diocese, Convocations, and Parishes regarding finances. The Council approved the Proposed Ministry and Mission Budget without amendment and referred it to the Diocesan Executive Board for development of the final Budget.

### **Committee reports on resolutions**

*[Secretary Atkinson had moved all resolutions on the first day for action by the Council.]*

*Constitution and Canons:* Richard P. Perry, Esq., Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution C08-1 as amended in Committee, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, that the following be adopted as ~~a Canon 39 and included in the Canons~~ of the Diocese of Atlanta:

In the event that the Vestry or other authorities of a Parish are unable to function adequately due to natural disaster or other emergency, loss of personnel, or abandonment of The Episcopal Church (TEC) by parish officials, the Bishop, in ~~his~~ *the Bishop's* discretion, may declare an Emergency in the Parish. Disputes among Parish officials who remain within TEC shall not in themselves constitute an Emergency within the meaning of this Canon.

When an Emergency is declared, the Bishop may exercise the authority otherwise given to the Vestry or other parish authorities, call and conduct elections, and take the appropriate action to deal with the Emergency (“Emergency Powers”). The Bishop shall relinquish the Emergency Powers described in this Canon as soon as is practical and is consistent with the best interests of the Diocese, TEC, and the Parish. Further, the Bishop shall not exercise the Emergency Powers for more than ten days without the approval of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, except that if it is not practical to consult the Standing Committee within ten days, the Emergency Powers may be continued until the Standing Committee can reasonably be Consulted. This Canon ~~is not intended to~~ does not change the procedures for ecclesiastical discipline provided for in the Canons of TEC.

Mr. Richard Bearden, St. Andrew’s in the Pines, Peachtree City, spoke in favor of the resolution, told what had happened in his parish when a split occurred, and thanked Bishop Alexander for his work with this parish.

**Motion carried**  
**Resolution C08-1 adopted with amendment**

Mr. Perry, Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution C08-2, the second reading of a proposed amendment to the Diocesan Constitution, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, the Constitution of the Diocese of Atlanta, Article 2, “Of the Council of

the Diocese”, Section 2, “Lay Members” be amended as follows:

In paragraph (a.), the phrase “Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing” be deleted, and be replaced with “Communicants”.

Subsequently, the wording of the chart in this section is replaced with “Communicants”, following the form in the text.

Paragraph (b.) replace “confirmed communicants” with “communicants.”

## **2. Lay Members:**

(a). Every Parish and Aided Parish in the Diocese shall be entitled to Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates elected as provided by the Canons of the Diocese. The number of Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates from each Parish or Aided Parish is determined by the number of Communicants reported on the latest available Parochial Report from the Parish or Aided Parish. Each Parish or Aided Parish shall be entitled to the following number of Lay Delegates:

### **Number of reported Communicants**

#### **Number of Delegates**

More than 3, but not more than 200, 2;

More than 200, but not more than 400, 3;

More than 400, but not more than 600, 4;

More than 600, 5;

and a like number of Alternates.

(b). Any group of Communicants of the Episcopal Church which has a definite organization recognized by the Ecclesiastical Authority and which conforms to the minimum requirements for a Parish may, upon annual request, and approval by the Council, thereafter have one Lay Delegate and one Alternate Lay Delegate to the Council of the Diocese.

(c). [*unchanged; authorizes Convocation Youth Delegates.*]

(d). [*unchanged; authorizes certain campus ministries' Lay Delegates.* ]

**Motion carried**

**Resolution C08-2 adopted**

*Community Ministries:* The Rev Cn. Deborah Shew, Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution R08-2 as amended in committee, reading as follows:

*Resolved* that, following the example of Kenneth Untener, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Saginaw (1980-2004), all meetings held under Church auspices, at the parish or diocesan level, no matter what their purpose, begin with the agenda item: How shall what we are doing here ~~effect~~ *help* or involve the poor; and be it further

*Resolved*, that this item shall remain on the Church's agenda throughout the upcoming Christian year beginning on Advent I (November 30, 2008) and ending on the feast day of Kamehameha and Emma (November 28, 2009), and will be followed by a call for reflection on what we have learned, and for prayer to live what we have learned.

Mr. John Blanks, Christ Church, Macon, moved to table the motion.  
The Council voted by division. The yeas were 140 and the nays were 169.

**Motion to table defeated**

**Motion carried**  
**Resolution R08-2 adopted with amendment**

*Global Missions*:: Mr. Richard Hall, All Saints', Atlanta, Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution R08-1, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, that the Diocese of Atlanta observe a Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday and that parishes and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief and Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.; and be it further

*Resolved*, that this 102<sup>nd</sup> Council of the Diocese of Atlanta transmit to the Secretary of the General Convention for consideration by the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Anaheim, California, July, 2009, to wit:

*RESOLVED*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, this 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention requests that the Episcopal Church observe a Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday and that parishes and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.

**Motion carried**  
**Resolution R08-1 adopted**

*Constitution and Canons*: Richard P. Perry. Esq., Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution R08-3 as amended in committee, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, that this 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council requests the Bishop to appoint an ad hoc committee, comprising the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor, the Secretary of the Council and such other persons he may wish to appoint, *so as to represent the entire Diocese*, to review the diocesan canon and the Rules of Order pertaining to election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the committee report its findings and recommendations to the 103d Annual Council.

**Motion carried**  
**Resolution R08-3 adopted with amendment**

*Liturgy*: The Vy. Rev. Samuel G. Candler, Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution R08-4, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, This 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta approves the following resolution to the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Anaheim, California in 2009; and be it further

*Resolved*: This council directs the Secretary of Council to transmit the following resolution to the Secretary of the General Convention:

*Resolved*: The House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church authorizes the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop appropriate rites for the celebration and blessing of the sacred unions of gay and lesbian persons, taking into account the variety of civil arrangements for such unions available in the regions served by the church; and be it further

*Resolved*: that such rite or rites shall be presented at the 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

A Clergy Member moved the vote be taken by orders.

The Chair directed the Council vote on the motion to vote by orders.

**Motion to vote by orders defeated**

**Motion carried**  
**Resolution R08-4 adopted**

*Ministry*: Mr. Kendall Lockerman, Chair, recommended adoption of Resolution R08-5, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, this 102d Annual Council approves the following resolution to the 76th General Convention meeting in Anaheim, California in 2009; and be it further

*Resolved*, this Council directs the Secretary of Council to transmit the following resolution to the Secretary of the General Convention:

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_, concurring, the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes that the usefulness of Resolution B033 as passed by the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church has run its course; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church herewith repeals Resolution B033 as passed by the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church; and, be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church acknowledges with regret the further oppression visited on the lesbian and gay members of this church by Resolution B033 and its application; and apologizes for the potentially negative impact of said resolution on the ability to respond to the vocational call by the Holy Spirit to the episcopate of any members of this church; and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church expresses its appreciation to the lesbian and gay members of this church for their patience during this time of discernment for the church; and be it further

*Resolved*, that in the call to see the face of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in each other, this church pledges its utmost effort to keep all parties “at the table” as The Episcopal Church continues to insure the full participation of all of God’s children in the life of this church.

**Motion carried  
Resolution R08-5 adopted**

*Community Ministries:* The Rev. Cn. Deborah Shew recommended adoption of Resolution R08-6, reading as follows:

*Resolved*, that this 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta commends Bishop Neil Alexander for his appointment of a Task Force on Environmental Stewardship this past year; and be it further

*Resolved*, that consistent with the Bishop’s letter of September 23, 2008, this Council encourages all congregations within the Diocese of Atlanta to appoint one or more Creation Keepers to serve as liaisons with the Task Force as well as coordinators on environmental stewardship within the congregation; and be it further

*Resolved*, that each congregation should support participation by their Creation Keepers in diocesan workshops for training and mutual support; and be it further

*Resolved*, that each congregation establish a group within the congregation to organize events, programs and activities that will further that congregation’s stewardship of the creation.

**Motion carried  
Resolution R08-6 adopted**

Canon Shew recommended adoption of Resolution R08-7, reading as follows

*Resolved*, that the Task Force on Disability Accessibility become a commission of the Diocese of Atlanta so it may continue its work to recommend, educate, and raise awareness for our diocese and churches in order to encourage accessibility for all of God’s children.

**Motion carried  
Resolution R08-7 adopted**

The Rev. Hazel S. Glover, Dispatch of Business, announced that all resolutions before the Council had been dealt with.

### **Other reports**

*Central Tanganyka Missionary:* The Rev. Sandra McCann brought greetings from the Diocese of Central Tanganyka and thanked the Diocese for allowing her and her husband to serve as missionaries there.

*Kids for Peace:* A deputation from Kids for peace entered. There are chapters in Vermont, North Carolina, and Atlanta. Thirty places are seeking to establish chapters. The Atlanta chapter received the Building Bridges Award from the Islamic Peace Bureau. Some of the children spoke about their experiences with kids for Peace in 2005, 2006, and 2008. Online registration in the program from children all over the diocese will be available.

*Assistant Bishop's Reflections:* Bishop Whitmore said he felt the presence of the Holy Spirit during the procession to and entrance into the church last night. In his travels around the diocese, he seen (1) commitment to adult education leading to an informed laity, (2) commitment to children, (3) extraordinarily well educated and talented clergy—then they leave, and (4) the Holy Spirit is leading the Diocese of Atlanta to be an example to the Church.

*Annual Council Committee:* Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair, thanked the East Atlanta Convocation for hosting this Council meeting. She gave special thanks to the Vy. Rev. William T. Deneke, Dean of East Atlanta Convocation, to Bishop Alexander, and to the diocesan staff members. She announced the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Council will be sponsored by the Mid-Atlanta Convocation and meet at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta.

Bishop Alexander expressed his gratitude to these persons:

Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee;  
The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary, and he noted the absence of Mrs. Marcia C. Jenkins, Assistant Secretary at eighteen preceding Councils, due to illness;  
Mrs. Marianne Joris, Recording Secretary;  
The Rev. Timothy H. Graham, newly appointed Assistant Secretary;  
Richard P. Perry, Esq., Chancellor;  
Thomas H. Christopher, Esq., Vice Chancellor;  
Diocesan Staff members Linda Scott, Wynn Callaway, Mary Job, Ieasha Barrow, and Muriel Diguette;  
Mr. Gary Pannell, Treasurer, Mr. Stephen Burnett, Chair of Finance Committee; the Finance and Budget Committees, and diocesan office finance staff;  
Mr. Thomas Quinn, Chair of the Long Term Finance Committee;  
Musicians and the Rector and people of Holy Trinity Decatur who contributed to the Council Eucharist; and  
Clergy and Parishes of East Atlanta Convocation for their hospitality.

*Memorials and Courtesy Resolutions:* The Rev. John Bolton, Chair, moved these resolutions.

*Resolved*, that this Council extends greetings to:

The Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefforts Schori; Bishop Frank and Mrs. Elizabeth Allan; Mrs. Mary Page Sims, widow of the late Bishop Bennett Sims; Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo of Central Tanganyika; Bishop Wilfredo Ramos of Ecuador Central, with special prayers for the upcoming election of a bishop.

*Resolved*, that this Council extends its thanks to:

our Bishop John Neil Alexander for his leadership and pastoral oversight;  
the East Atlanta Convocation and their Dean, The V. Rev. William T. Deneke,  
and the City of Decatur and their Mayor *pro-tem*, Jim Baskett, for their hospitality;  
the admission to Council of St. Benedict's and Christ the King congregations;  
the presence and participation of Bishop Filadelfo Oliveira and his wife, Dulcy;  
Bishop Keith Whitmore and his wife, Suzy, and especially for his reflections and  
for their participation in the life of our diocese;

Sandy and Martin McCann for their ministry in Central Tanganyika;  
Amanda Meng, for her presentation on Millennium Development Goals, with  
special reference to the empowerment of women and the critical issues in our own city of  
Atlanta;

Diddie Chocalo for her presentation on mission work in India, again with special  
emphasis on the empowerment of women;

Janet Patterson, for her chairmanship of the committee of this Council;  
the Officers of the Diocese, Richard Perry, Thomas Christopher, Herschel  
Atkinson, Gary Pannell; and Steve Burnett, Thomas Quinn and the financial team;

For a peaceful transition of power in the leadership of our country;  
For all those serving in uniform and in harm's way, with prayers for the victims of  
war.

*Resolved*, that we honor the memory of William R. Peyton, William S. Bennett, Priest;  
and the laity who have died in the past year: Wilma Rose Davis ("Mama Bear"); Coalson  
Pender; Jack Rayborn; Mary Ann Foster; Shirley Klotz; Margaret Brock; Frank Hudson;  
Carl Bruechert; and Charles Elliott Bouis.

**All motions carried**

Bishop Alexander led prayers for the persons who died since the previous Council.

The Rev. Ellen E. Purdum, Good Shepherd, Covington, led noonday prayers.

Bishop Alexander adjourned the Council *sine die* at 11:05 a.m., November 15th, 2008.

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Chair

The Rev. Herschel R. Atkinson, Secretary