

House of Bishops Meeting

**Hilton Colon Hotel Quito, Ecuador
September 20, 2011**

Minutes of the Business Meeting

The business meeting of the House of Bishops was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who led us in prayer. A moment of silent prayer was offered for the Rt. Rev'd Robert Anderson, and the Rt. Rev'd Walter Righter, who have died since our meeting in March of 2011.

The Secretary suggested the registration for the meeting be considered a sufficient record of bishops present; the House was relieved and agreed. There were 113 bishops present and eligible to vote. The Senior Bishop present was the Rt. Rev'd David Reed.

Changes of status of Bishops in the House

Consecrations

R. William Franklin, Western New York, 04/30/2011 (attended March meeting)
Rayford J. Ray, Northern Michigan, 05/21/2011 (attended March meeting)
George D. Young, III, East Tennessee, 06/25/2011

Elections/Consecration dates

J. Scott Barker, Nebraska, 10/08/2011
Marianne E. Budde, Washington, 11/12/2011
John McKee Sloan, Alabama, investiture 01/07/2012

Resignations /Effective dates

Joe Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska 04/01/2011
J. Michael Garrison, Bishop of Western New York 04/30/2011
Rayford High, Bishop Suffragan of Texas 04/30/2011
Charles vonRosenberg, Bishop of East Tennessee 06/25/2011
Victor Scantlebury, Assistant Bishop of Chicago 07/01/2011
Stacy Sauls, Bishop of Lexington 09/01/2011

Removed

Mark McDonald

Communications from the Presiding Bishop

1. The Presiding Bishop announced that Sean Rowe has accepted the appointment to become Assistant Parliamentarian for the House. Announcement greeted with applause.

2. In response to comments and evaluations of our meetings, a task force is being formed to conduct a review of meetings of the House of Bishops. Bishops invited to participate are: the Presiding Bishop, Canon Chuck Robertson, and Bishops Clay Matthews, Tom Shaw, Todd Ousley, Dan Daniel, Terry White, Diane Bruce, Prince Singh, Orlando Guerrero, and Andy Doyle.
3. Luis Ruiz and Victor Scantlebury were invited to offer information about the situation in the Diocese of Ecuador Central. As a result of ongoing and escalating tension in the relationship between the Bishop, the Standing Committee, and the Legal Representative, it has been agreed that all the persons involved in those particular ministries will resign, in order to provide a time for healing, clarification, formation, and a fresh start for the leadership of the diocese. Resignations are to be tendered before October 1, 2011.

Bp. Scantlebury will serve as Interim Bishop, and will lead the diocese in reconstruction and reconciliation, and revision of diocesan canons to conform to our church-wide canons, and training of clergy who were previously formed in the Roman Catholic Church, along with other transitional tasks. Bp. Clay Matthews will continue to provide resources for the enterprise of “building the new plane while flying it.”

We are urged by the Presiding Bishop to hold all persons involved in prayer. The Ruiz family, diocesan leaders and members, TEC staff – all have been affected by more than a decade of turmoil and stressful disagreement, reconciliation and reconstruction will take a long time. Title IV complaints have been received, and the process of addressing those will move forward.

Diocesan leaders have ceded authority to the Presiding Bishop, and she will make the determination about the timing of a diocesan convention.

The House was reassured that Bp. Ruiz will continue to receive his salary, and the family does have health insurance.

Special Business

Clay Matthews offered the names of Dean Wolfe (Bubba Lobo) and Andrew Doyle to be elected as members of the Board of The College for Bishops. Election had by strong voice vote.

David Bailey offered a resolution to affirm Bp. Ruiz for his strong support and involvement in ministries to refugees, and that the money offerings received during this meeting be designated for refugee ministries in this diocese. The House adopted the resolution with a strong voice vote. (We later learned that the total of these offerings is over \$1200.00)

Committee Reports

1) Resignations

Neil Alexander asked for a vote to consent to the Resignation of David Jones as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia, effective January 31, 2012. The House consented.

2) Privilege and Courtesy

Victor Scantlebury presented the request to admit Santosh Marray as a Collegial member of our House. Collegial members have seat and voice but no vote. The House rose to its collective feet to affirm that request with joy.

3) Theology

Joe Burnett offered a resolution from the committee that we adopt their letter on stewardship of the Earth as a pastoral letter from this House.

With very little grammatical tweaking, a request for a footnote definition of ‘carbon footprint’, and the suggestion that this document be styled a ‘teaching’ rather than a ‘letter’ the House passed the resolution handily.

Minutes

Though the Secretary was prepared to read the Minutes of the March 2011 meeting, very few relatively insincere members indicated a desire to have them read. They were accepted as submitted by e-mail many weeks ago.

Other Business

None was brought to the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

+Cate Waynick

Assistant Secretary to the House of Bishops