

**House of Bishops Interim Meeting**  
**Detroit, Michigan**  
**September 20, 2016**  
*As per House of Bishops Rules of Order*  
*Daily Orders II – Special Meeting of the House*

The Business Meeting was called to order at 11:05am by the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry. The Presiding Bishop opened the meeting with prayer.

The Secretary called the roll and announced that the original attendance consisted of 126 bishops and the number still present more than constituted a quorum. The Secretary then announced that Bishop James Ottley was the most Senior Bishop present during this business meeting.

**CHANGES OF STATUS OF BISHOPS IN THE HOUSE**

**New consecrations/elections**

Patrick W. Bell, Bishop of Eastern Oregon, 4/16/2016

Douglas E. Sparks, Bishop of Northern Indiana, 6/25/2016

Daniel Gutierrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania, 7/16/2016

Jose McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina, consecration scheduled for 10/1/2016

Santosh Marray, Bishop of Easton, installation scheduled for 10/15/2016

DeDe Duncan-Probe, elected Bishop of Central New York, consecration scheduled for 12/3/2016

**Necrology since last meeting**

Edward L. Salmon, resigned Bishop of South Carolina, 6/29/2016

Edmond L. Browning, resigned Bishop of Hawaii and XXIV Presiding Bishop and Primate, 7/11/2016

Duncan M. Gray, Jr., resigned Bishop of Mississippi, 7/15/2016

Earl N. McArthur, resigned Bishop Suffragan of West Texas, 7/17/2016

**Resignations since last meeting**

Ed Little effective 6/30/2016

Paul Lambert effective 8/1/2016

**Changes in Status**

Nedi Rivera to Honorary Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon (March 9, 2016) then to resigned bishop

Clifton Daniel from Provisional Bishop of Pennsylvania to resigned bishop.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP**

The Presiding Bishop introduced the working group at the podium:

Diane Jardine Bruce, Secretary

Sean Rowe, Parliamentarian

Allen Shin, Assistant Secretary

Mary Gray-Reeves, Vice President

Dean Wolfe, Vice President

Jim Mathes, Assistant Parliamentarian

The Presiding Bishop also introduced Wayne Wright as the Head of Dispatch, and announced that with Wayne's retirement Wendell Gibbs will become Head of Dispatch. Wayne received a standing ovation by the House.

### **SPECIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

a. Balloting for the election of the Bishop Suffragan of Federal Ministries.

Balloting for the Bishop of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries was conducted. Interviews of the three nominees was held earlier in the meeting on September 17, 2016.

The results of ballot # 1 is as follows:

115 Ballots cast, 58 votes needed to elect

The Rev. Christopher Garcia 53

The Rev. David McElwain 12

The Rev. Carl Wright 50

A Second ballot was cast.

The results of ballot #2 is as follows:

115 Ballots cast, 58 votes needed to elect.

The Rev. Christopher Garcia 50

The Rev. David McElwain 6

The Rev. Carl Wright 59

A phone call was placed to the nominee by the Presiding Bishop. This call was made on speaker so that all the Bishops in the House could hear. The Rev. Carl Wright accepted the election as the Bishop of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. The bishops present signed the testimonials. The Presiding Bishop called the other candidates as the testimonials were being signed.

- b. Resolution on Option to Withhold Consent (Appendix A) from the March 16, 2016 meeting of the House at Camp Allen, TX.

Wayne Smith and Dan Edwards addressed the convention. Edwards offered a substitution of the original motion (APPENDIX B). It was MOVED to accept the substitution and SECONDED. The substitution was read. The House requested table conversation about this resolution, which the Presiding Bishop granted. Conversation ensued.

Ed Konieczny moved to refer this motion to the Task Force on the Episcopacy. The MOTION was SECONDED. Discussion ensued.

Carol Gallagher noted that in some communities our brothers and sisters do not self-select.

Dena Harrison spoke in favor of the motion to refer.

Greg Rickel noted that we already have the right not to consent.

The motion to refer PASSED.

- c. Diocese of New Jersey resolution (to be received by the House only – Appendix C)

Chip Stokes, the Diocesan of New Jersey, read the resolution passed at the Diocese of New Jersey. He spoke to the resolution, which was to be received only by the HOB. There were thirteen people lost in the attacks of 9/11 in the Diocese of New Jersey. This resolution is to keep us mindful that the impact of the

- d. Resolution on Compiling Data (Appendix D)

Scott Benhase presented the Resolution on Compiling Data. Benhase read the Resolution. The MOTION was SECONDED. Benhase offered background to this resolution, including what could be the supply side of the budget for TEC. The data is being asked for to try to determine fair assessments.

Mike Klusmeyer reminded the House that there is a Task Force to look precisely at this issue. He noted that the information could be helpful to the Task Force. The MOTION PASSED.

**The HOUSE went into recess at noon.**

**At 1:07pm the HOUSE was called back to order by the Presiding Bishop.**

- e. Mind of the House resolution (Rob Wright et al – Appendix E)

Rob Wright presented the Mind of the House resolution, which will be available in print and in video in both English and Spanish. The Mind of the House resolution was MOVED and PASSED.

- f. Resolution on Human mobility with persons who come from South Africa, coming to Brazil or Haiti. (Appendix F).

Victor Scantlebury presented and MOVED this resolution to the House, which was SECONDED.

The motion was put forward for discussion after a vote was taken of the House, with two thirds of the House agreeing take up this resolution per Rule XIX of the House of Bishops Rules of Order.

Discussion ensued. The MOTION PASSED.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **HOUSE OF BISHOPS COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS**

The Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander reported for the **House of Bishops Committee on Resignations** that the committee met during this meeting and reviewed the requests for resignations from

1. The Right Reverend Gladstone B. "Skip" Adams, as Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York, effective October 31, 2016
2. The Right Reverend James B. Magness, as Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, February 11, 2016
3. The Right Reverend Wayne P. Wright, as Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware, effective, February 28, 2017
4. The committee found all matters with respect to their resignations from the present positions to be in order.

The Committee has determined, further, that in each case, one or more qualifications as set forth in the Constitution of The Episcopal Church and the Rules of Order of the House of Bishops have been met and these members are eligible to retain their seat and voice in this House upon the acceptance of their resignation by this House. Bishop Alexander on behalf of the committee MOVED that the House accept the resignations of these bishops. The Motion was APPROVED.

### **REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUP OF COMMUNION ACROSS DIFFERENCES**

Rob Skirving and Greg Brewer addressed the House representing a group which the Presiding called together to work on fleshing out what it would mean for our church to live in "communion across difference." This arose in response to the votes at the last General Convention which resulted in the inclusion of people of the same gender in our understanding of Holy Matrimony, as well as our resolution to support each other given our theological diversity.

While they were tasked with working out guidelines for how we might live "across difference" what quickly developed was a critique of the process which resulted in the

passing of the aforementioned resolutions. It should be noted that this critique was shared by most everyone on the task force regardless of where they stood on what rites they would or would not allow in their dioceses. In fact, the subject was not initially brought up by our most conservative members.

That critique included the following observations:

- The whole process felt like it was organized by a group of people who had a predetermined end and had a strategy to carry that out.
- What was presented seemed quite different than what was presented at the last House of Bishops gathering in March.
- The supporting documents lacked both serious Biblical exegesis ("shallow" was the word used, and a lack of engagement from Biblical scholars who held differing points of view) and any serious efforts in pursuing the impact our decisions would have on the wider Anglican Communion.
- The process seemed "stacked" from the start by the lack of in depth theological diversity in the makeup of the Task Force.

While this task force is only beginning its work, it was clear (as one member put it) that "we are pulling on a thread attached to a larger piece of cloth" which is how we craft resolutions (even how we live together) that take seriously the theological and cultural diversity present in an Episcopal Church with a global geography.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

2. Ed Konieczny **MOVED** to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION**. This was **SECONDED** and **APPROVED**. The House then went into **EXECUTIVE SESSION**.

3. There was a **MOTION** to come **OUT** of **EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** and **APPROVED**.

#### **MINUTES.**

It was **MOVED** and **APPROVED** that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce

Secretary

Attested,

The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin

Assistant Secretary

## APPENDIX A

### **Option to Withhold Consent -- Original Resolution postponed to today:**

Be it resolved that Bishops with Jurisdiction in The Episcopal Church reserve the option to withhold consent after any Episcopal election without at least two qualified persons of color among the nominees.

And be it further reserved that Bishops with jurisdiction in The Episcopal Church reserve the option to withhold consent after any Episcopal Election without at least two qualified women among the nominees.

### **Substitution:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Bishops regrets the extent to which we remain predominantly a body of white males, a vestige of privilege at odds with justice and God's dream for our Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend the work of the Task Force on Episcopal Elections and those dioceses who have elected to the episcopate women and nominees outside the dominant culture, especially those who have done so in recent months. We also commend all dioceses who have been attentive to the importance of strong women and minorities as nominees in episcopal elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Bishops respects the right of each diocese to select its bishop using its own methods of discernment. We do encourage diocesan nominating committees to strive to show in our Church a clearer image of the breadth of God's love, to manifest more clearly the Christian diversity revealed on the Day of Pentecost, and to equip our Church for God's mission of evangelism and reconciliation. To that end, we commend to every nominating committee our hope that each slate of nominees will include at least one woman and at least one member of a racial or ethnic minority. We ask the Office of Pastoral Development to review this resolution with each Standing Committee and nominating committee at the beginning of their work in electing a bishop and assist the nominating committees toward the aims stated herein.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Bishops encourages all Bishops with jurisdiction and all diocesan Standing Committees, in the exercise of their authority regarding consent to the consecration of future bishops, to give serious consideration to the inclusivity of the search process and the diversity of the final slate of candidates in making their decision. This Resolution is subject to the pending report of the Task Force on Episcopal Elections.

## APPENDIX B

### **Substitution offered by Dan Edwards to the Option to Withhold Consent Resolution (Appendix A)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Bishops regrets the extent to which we remain predominantly a body of white males, a vestige of privilege at odds with justice and God's dream for our Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend those dioceses who have elected to the episcopate women and nominees outside the dominate culture, especially those who have done so in recent months. We also commend all dioceses who have been attentive to the importance of strong women and minorities as nominees in episcopal elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Bishops respects the right of each diocese to select its bishop using its own methods of discernment. We do encourage diocesan nominating committees to strive to show in our Church a clearer image of the breadth of God's love, to manifest more clearly the Christian diversity revealed on the Day of Pentecost, and to equip our Church for God's mission of evangelism and reconciliation. To that end, we commend to every nominating committee our hope that each slate of nominees will include at least one woman and at least one member of a racial or ethnic minority. We ask the Office of Pastoral Development to review this resolution with each Standing Committee and nominating committee at the beginning of their work in electing a bishop and assist the nominating committees toward the aims stated herein.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Bishops encourages all Bishops with jurisdiction and all diocesan Standing Committees, in the exercise of their authority regarding consent to the consecration of future bishops, to give serious consideration to the inclusivity of the search process and the diversity of the final slate of candidates in making their decision.

## APPENDIX C

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### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 232nd CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

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RESOLUTION 2016-2:

*Subject: Reaffirmation of Resolution 2004-1 Concerning the 9/11 Victims in this the 15th Anniversary Year of September 11, 2001*

*Be It Resolved,* That the 232nd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm Resolution 2004-1 passed by the 220th Convention of the Diocese; and be it

*Further Resolved,* That we continually pray for all those lost on September 11, 2001, all others lost at the hand of terrorism, for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the days since the attacks, for those who still suffer in body and mind as a result of terrorist attacks, and for all those we call peacemakers; and be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Secretary of this Convention forward a copy of this Resolution to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, to the Joint Standing Committee on Advocacy and Networking for Mission of the Executive Council, and to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church.

## APPENDIX D

### Resolution for the House of Bishop's Meeting September 2016

Be it resolved that the Presiding Bishop direct Church staff that he designates to compile the following data in a spreadsheet and distribute it to the House of Bishops at least one week before our Spring 2017 meeting:

1. name of the diocese;
2. average annual budget over the last three years;
3. total number of congregations (including campus ministries, special worshipping communities);
4. diocesan budget amount per total number of congregations (including campus ministries, communities) over the last three years;
5. average number of baptized members over the last three years;
6. average diocesan budget amount per baptized member over the last three years;
7. average market value of the diocesan endowment over the last three years;
8. average percentage over the last three years of diocesan endowment supporting the diocesan budget;
9. average diocesan amount supporting TEC over the last three years;
10. average diocesan support of TEC as a percentage of annual diocesan budget over the last three years;
11. average amount over the last three years of diocesan budget supporting provincial and companion relationships; and,
12. average amount received by diocese over the previous three years from TEC through grants, etc.

Explanation: The dioceses of TEC have a wide disparity of resources that each individually stewards. The HOB has been discussing what should be an appropriate percentage apportionment from each diocese. That discussion has been largely debated by how much we need to raise to support the triennial expense budget of TEC rather than from discovering what the resources are from each diocese. Learning the above data will help the HOB have a better conversation around how each diocese sacrificially supports the mission of TEC. The data also may help us discern a more fair and just way to fund our common mission.

Submitted by Scott Benhase

## APPENDIX E

### A Word to the Church for the World

Greetings from Detroit, a city determined to be revived. Greetings also from the city of Flint, where we are reminded that the gift of water has for many of our brothers and sisters become a curse.

Here we have been exhorted to set our sights beyond ourselves and to minister to our nation and the world. We lament the stark joylessness that marks our present time. We decry angry political rhetoric which rages while fissures widen within society along racial, economic, educational, religious, cultural and generational lines. We refuse to look away as poverty, cruelty and war force families to become migrants enduring statelessness and demonization. We renounce the gun violence and drug addiction that steal lives and crush souls while others succumb to fear and cynicism, abandoning any sense of neighborliness.

Yet, in all this, "...we do not despair" (2 Cor. 4:8.) We remember that God in Christ entered our neighborhood during a time of political volatility and economic instability. To this current crisis we bring our faith in Jesus. By God's grace, we choose to see in this moment an urgent opportunity to follow Jesus into our fractured neighborhoods, the nation and the world.

Every member of the church has been "...called for a time such as this." (Esther 4:14.) Let prophets tell the truth in love. Let reconcilers move boldly into places of division and disagreement. Let evangelists inspire us to tell the story of Jesus in new and compelling ways. Let leaders lead with courage and joy.

In the hope of the Resurrection let us all pray for God to work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish God's purposes on earth.

*This Word to the Church was delivered in paper and video format.*

## APPENDIX F

Whereas as the Bishops of the Church we are called to denounce and announce;

Whereas migration and human mobility are now stronger each day, not only in efforts of safeguarding life given the many forms of violence, but also in search of job opportunities and education for social injustices in their countries ;

Whereas citizens of countries South of North America have been affected by this situation and seek opportunities in the United States;

*Resolves:*

1- Our solidarity with men, women and children traveling in search of new opportunities exposing themselves to all sorts of dangers and inhumane situations on the road just to reach the United States.

2- To request the Office of Migration of the Episcopal Church to pay attention to the migration of citizens of our countries to the United States through the border with Mexico; to appeal to the United Nations in order to provide the necessary humanitarian aid in order to safeguard lives.

3- Working with the various dioceses of the Province IX of the Episcopal Church to find strategies to create awareness in all dioceses in the United States of this human reality in fulfillment of our baptismal vows of "Respect for human dignity."

Considerando que los Obispos de la Iglesia estamos llamados a denunciar y anunciar;

Considerando que la migración y movilidad humana se hace todos los días más fuerte en búsqueda, no solo de la salvaguarda de la vida dada las múltiples formas de violencia, sino también en busca de oportunidades de trabajo y educación por las injusticias sociales, en sus países;

Considerando que ciudadanos de países al Sur del continente se han visto afectados por esta situación y buscan oportunidades en los Estados Unidos;

*Resuelve:*

1- Solidarizarnos con hombres, mujeres y niños que viajan en la búsqueda de nuevas oportunidades exponiéndose a toda clase de peligros y situaciones inhumanas en el camino con tal de llegar a los Estados Unidos.

2- Solicitar a la oficina de asuntos migratorios de la Iglesia Episcopal poner atención a la migración de ciudadanos de nuestros países hacia Los Estados Unidos a través de las fronteras con México; Hacer un llamado a las Naciones Unidas con el propósito de brindarles la ayuda humanitaria necesaria con el fin de salvaguardar vidas.

3- Trabajar con las diferentes diócesis Episcopales de la IX Prov. estrategias para concientizar a todas las diócesis en los Estados Unidos de esta realidad humana en cumplimiento de nuestros votos bautismales de "Respetar la dignidad humana."