

**House of Bishops Interim Meeting
Kanuga
March 17, 2015**

The business meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. The Presiding Bishop opened the meeting with prayer. It was moved that the registration list of the conference suffice for the roll call. The secretary announced that the original attendance consisted of 148 bishops and the number still present more than constituted a quorum. It was announced that the Rt. Rev. Peter Lee was recognized as the Senior Bishop present.

Changes of Status of Bishops in the House

New consecrations/elections

Brian R. Seage, Mississippi, 09/27/2014

Robert Skirving, East Carolina, 11/08/2014

David Reed, Coadjutor of West Texas, installation scheduled for 02/28/2015

Peter Eaton, Coadjutor of Southeast Florida, consecration scheduled for 05/09/2015

J. Russell Kendrick, elected Bishop of Central Gulf, consecration scheduled for 07/25/2015

Necrology since last meeting

M. Thomas Shaw, resigned Bishop of Massachusetts, 10/17/2014

Creighton L. Robertson, resigned Bishop of South Dakota, 10/24/2014

James Mark Dyer, resigned Bishop of Bethlehem, 11/11/2014

William W. Wiedrich, resigned Bishop Suffragan of Chicago, 11/26/2014

Orris G. Walker, Jr., resigned Bishop of Long Island, 02/28/2015

Resignations since last meeting

Duncan Gray, Bishop of Mississippi, effective February 8, 2015

Changes in Status

Brian Seage, Bishop Diocesan, effective February 8, 2015

David Reed, Bishop Coadjutor, effective February 28, 2015

Henry Parsley, Bishop Provisional of Easton, effective July 2014

Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop of Montana, effective September 2014

Communications from the Presiding Bishop

The Presiding Bishop had no additional communications for this meeting.

Special Business of Meeting

Election to the Disciplinary Board -- The Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews presented and moved a slate to be elected for six year terms. Re-elected for a six year term: the Rt. Rev.. Dorsey Henderson, the Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick. Elected for a six year term: The Rt. Rev. Rob O'Neill, Rt. Rev. Nick Knisely. Current members until 2018: the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, the Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, the Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, the Rt. Rev. Holly Hollerith. The motion was seconded and **APPROVED**.

Election to the College for Bishops Board -- The Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander presented and moved the slate for election: One a year term -- Mr. Donald Romanik, the Rev. Kathryn Young, Ms. Marla M. Hanley. For a three year term: the Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, the Rt. Rev. Holly Hollerith, the Rt. Rev. Scott Barker, Mr. Lee Davis Thames, Esq. The motion was seconded and **APPROVED**.

Reports from Committees

HOUSE OF BISHOPS COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS

The Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander reported for the **House of Bishops Committee on Resignations** moved the following resignation:

The Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray, Bishop of Mississippi, effective February 8, 2015. The resignation was moved and **AFFIRMED**.

JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Joint Nominating Committee for the Presiding Bishop -- The Rt. Rev. Ed Konieczny presented and moved a resolution on background checks (Appendix A). After being seconded, discussion followed. The resolution **APPROVED**.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PREAMBLE FOR COMMITMENT AND CORE VALUES

The Rt. Rev. Jim Waggoner, **Pastoral Development Committee**, provided the Preamble for Commitment and Core Values (Appendix B) to set standards and norms for the House for our own effectiveness and wellbeing in the way we function in the House. Bishop Waggoner **MOVED** that we accept the document, which was seconded. Discussion followed. The Rt. Rev. Dan Martins **MOVED** that we postpone action on this resolution to a time certain. That Motion and seconded, but **FAILED**. The original resolution was then **APPROVED**.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION

The Rt. Rev. Jim Waggoner then offered a resolution (Appendix C) on the appointment of an independent commission to explore the canonical, environmental, behavioral and procedural dimensions of matters involving the serious impairment of individuals serving as leaders in the Church. Bishop Waggoner **MOVED** the resolution, which was seconded. Discussion followed. The Rt. Rev. Tom Ely offered the following amendment to the resolution (line 5 after the phrase SERVING AS LEADERS IN THE CHURCH): *with special attention to issues including alcohol and substance abuse*, which was **MOVED** and seconded. Discussion followed. The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth **MOVED** an amendment to this amendment, changing *including alcohol* to *addiction* which was seconded. Discussion followed. The amendment was **APPROVED**. With that amendment, the amended resolution continued to be discussed.

The Rt. Rev. Marian Budde moved that the House go into Executive Session, which was seconded and was **APPROVED**.

The House came out of Executive Session and resumed discussion of the resolution. The Rt. Rev. Mark Andrus **MOVED** an amendment to the Resolution: *Be it further resolved, that the commission make a report to the House of Bishops at the end of the commission's work*. The amendment was seconded and discussion ensued.

The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris **MOVED** an amendment to the amendment to bring the report *to the whole church*. This amendment was seconded. Discussion ensued, and the amendment **FAILED**. The original amendment was taken up again, and it **FAILED**.

The original resolution, with the amendment of Tom Ely and subsequent amendment by Mark Hollingsworth, was **APPROVED**.

SPECIAL COMMISSION

Special Commission: The Presiding Bishop then spoke to the House regarding, given the content of our meeting, whether or not the House would be willing to have a special commission appointment to author a special Pastoral Letter from the House on the Sin of Racism. Discussion ensued and the House supported this work with applause. Bishops interested in serving on this commission will contact the Presiding Bishop directly.

RESOLUTION FROM THE ECCLESIOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Rt. Rev. Pierre Whalon offered and **MOVED** a resolution (Appendix D) on behalf of the **Ecclesiology Committee**. After being seconded, discussion ensued. The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith moved to postpone this resolution until a time certain. That motion was seconded and discussion ensued. The motion **FAILED**. Discussion of the original resolution resumed.

The Rt. Rev. Dan Martins **MOVED** an amendment to the resolution, which was seconded, to remove the last section: *in order that it may be released to the wider church for study and further development.*

The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin then moved to amend the amendment to read *to receive the report for further study.* This motion was **APPROVED.**

Discussion of the amended amendment ensued. The Amendment was **APPROVED.**

The Rt. Rev. Nick Knisley **MOVED** an amendment, so that the word DRAFT be inserted: the HOB receive a *DRAFT* report. This motion was seconded and **APPROVED.**

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth **MOVED** an amendment, to remove by *the House of Bishops.* The motion was **APPROVED.**

The amended resolution, as amended, was again taken up. Discussion ensued. The resolution, as amended, was **APPROVED.**

SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH IN PAKISTAN

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Waldo **MOVED** a statement in support of the Church in Pakistan (Appendix E). The resolution was seconded and **APPROVED.**

Reading of the Minutes

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Attested,

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price

Assistant Secretary

Secretary

APPENDIX A

Be it resolved, that the House of Bishops we value the critical importance of thorough background checks for all nominees for Presiding Bishop, and as the House of Bishops, we will not vote for any person nominated through the discernment or petition process as established by the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop who has not completed the JNCPB background check process

APPENDIX B

General Convention 2015 Preamble for Commitment and Core Values

We, the Bishops of the Episcopal Church gathered in our March 2015 meeting, call ourselves to the leadership and agreements expressed below as we move forward in the mission of the Church.

We seek to be a mission-minded Church as an expression of our core values encompassed in the Great Commandment, calling us to be a community of love in which all can find their place.

The Experience of General Convention

We, as bishops in community, will designate a time each day in which to share our faith in meaningful conversation with each other. We desire to pause for prayer, spiritual reflection, and discernment during the work of Convention, especially when we are engaged in more difficult and challenging conversations and decisions.

We recognize the usefulness of a variety of action tools, including legislation, continuing conversation, and consensus. We ask that the convention determine the most timely and appropriate means of proceeding, recognizing the variety of tools available and the potential gain and consequence of each tool used. On sensitive issues, we will be willing to suspend the Rules of Order and go into discussion in smaller groups before proceeding.

We will be diligent in identifying those questions best served by technical response and those requiring adaptive work.

Commitments in Preparation for Convention

We will operate and speak from an experience of Communion within which we seek to discover the way forward in areas of disagreement.

We will encourage our deputations to be fully and broadly informed, to increase our capacity for deep listening (especially when engaged in difficult and discomfoting debate and conversation), so that we, as a convention and people of faith, can make the best decisions available to us at this time in our life.

We recognize our unique responsibility to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church while at the same time reaffirming that the House of Deputies and House of Bishops share a mutuality of governance, representing the whole of our Church.

We commit to be in dialogue with bishops and deputies who speak from a perspective different from our own, and to pray for the whole of the conversation at convention. We encourage our deputies to seek such conversation and prayers.

We will follow the *Policies for Social Media & Electronic Communications at House of Bishops Meetings and Gatherings*.

APPENDIX C

Be it resolved, that the House of Bishops requests the Presiding Bishop appoint, in consultation with the President of the House of Deputies, an independent commission to explore the canonical, environmental, behavioral and procedural dimensions of matters involving the serious impairment of individuals serving as leaders in the Church, with special attention to issues of addiction and substance abuse. We request that appointments to this commission include individuals with professional or personal experience with varieties of impairment, members of Full-Communion partner churches, and members of this Church. We further request that a report of the commission's work include recommendations for both action and further review, as appropriate, in order to clarify lines of authority, to ensure mutual accountability, and to promote justice, well-being and safety within both the Church and the world; and

Be it further resolved, that the House of Bishops request the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Finances for Mission allocate sufficient funding from the 2015 budget for the work of the commission.

APPENDIX D.

Resolved, that the House of Bishops receive the draft Report of its Ecclesiology Committee entitled "Re-membering and Re-imagining" in order that it may be released to the wider church for study and further development.

APPENDIX E

Statement in Support of the Church of Pakistan.

The Bishops of the Episcopal Church, meeting in session at Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina, express our grief and sadness at the violent and horrific loss of life and wholeness in the cowardly bombings of Christ Church and St. John's Catholic Church in Youhanabad, Pakistan.

We offer our deepest prayers for the dead, dying and injured and for their families, friends and loved ones, and we stand in awe of the gratitude for the steadfast and courageous witness of Pakistani Christians in the face of ongoing persecution, oppression and violence.