

House of Bishops Meeting

Kanuga Conference Center

March 25-30, 2011

Minutes of the Business Session

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

The business meeting of the House of Bishops was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jeffers Schori. The Secretary moved that the registration list for the conference stand in place of a formal roll call. The House agreed. The registration list showed 146 bishops registered and eligible to vote. The Secretary declared a quorum was present.

The Senior Bishop present was the Rt. Rev. David Reed.

Changes of Status of Bishops in the House

The following official acts were recorded since the last meeting of the House of Bishops September 21, 2010 in Phoenix.

New Consecrations / Elections

1. Terry Allen White, Kentucky, 09/25/2010 (attended September meeting)
2. Michael Vono, Rio Grande, 10/22/2010 (attended September meeting)
3. Scott B. Hayashi, Utah, 11/06/2010 (attended September meeting)
4. Michael Milliken, Western Kansas, 02/19/2011
5. Martin S. Field, West Missouri, 03/05/2011
6. Daniel H. Martins, Springfield, 03/19/2011
7. William Franklin, Western New York, 04/30/2011 (consents received)
8. Rayford Ray, Northern Michigan, 05/21/2011 (consents received)
9. George D. Young III, East Tennessee, 06/25/2011 (consents received)

Necrology since last meeting

The Rt. Rev. Leigh A. Wallace, resigned Bishop of Spokane 10/07/2010

The Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith, resigned Bishop of New Hampshire 10/10/2010

Resignations since last meeting

1. Edwin F. Gulick as Bishop Diocesan, Kentucky, effective 9/25/2010
2. Carolyn Tanner Irish, as Bishop Diocesan, Utah, effective 11/06/2010
3. John L. Rabb, as Bishop Suffragan, Maryland, effective 01/01/2011
4. Barry Howe, as Bishop Diocesan, West Missouri, effective 03/05/2011

Communications from the Presiding Bishop

The Presiding Bishop shared the substance of the following communication which will be executed regarding Bishop Mark MacDonald.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between:

BISHOP MARK MACDONALD

an ordained Bishop in the Church of God

transferring from The Episcopal Church to The Anglican Church of Canada

-and-

THE MOST REVEREND FRED HILTZ

Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada

-and-

THE MOST REVEREND DR. KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI

Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Memorandum is to confirm our understanding about the transfer of Bishop Mark MacDonald from The Episcopal Church to The Anglican Church of Canada.

BACKGROUND

2. The Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church are in full communion one with the other.
3. Bishop MacDonald was consecrated as a Bishop in The Episcopal Church and held office as Bishop of Alaska and also was an assisting bishop in Navajoland.

4. In January 2007, in response to a request from the Sacred Circle, the then-Primate (Archbishop Hutchison) appointed Bishop MacDonald to be the first National Indigenous Anglican Bishop in The Anglican Church of Canada working with the General Synod and not attached to any particular diocese as part of the Church's commitment to A New Agape with Indigenous Peoples.
5. Bishop MacDonald resigned the office as Bishop of Alaska in September 2007 and the office of Bishop of Navajoland in July 2009.
6. In 2010, the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada gave second reading to amendments to the Declaration of Principles and the Constitution to recognize the office of National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and make the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop a member of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada, and also enacted Canon XX with respect to the National Indigenous Ministry.
7. In order for Bishop MacDonald to become a full member of the national House of Bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada, it is necessary for him to take oaths and subscriptions.
8. Although the canon law of both The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Church of Canada contain procedures for the transfer of bishops either internally between dioceses or coming into a diocese from a church with which it is in full communion (through the use of *letters de bene decessit* and *letters dimissory*), neither has provisions which directly deal with the present circumstance, and it is desirable to set out our understanding and commitment about the effect of Bishop MacDonald's transfer from The Episcopal Church to The Anglican Church of Canada.

THIS MEMORANDUM CONFIRMS OUR UNDERSTANDING AND COMMITMENT AS FOLLOWS:

9. Upon taking the required oaths and subscriptions in The Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop MacDonald will cease to be under the authority of The Episcopal Church and a voting member of its House of Bishops, and will come under the authority of The Anglican Church of Canada and be a full member of its national House of Bishops.
10. The Episcopal Church recognizes that Bishop MacDonald's transfer from The Episcopal Church to The Anglican Church of Canada does not affect the catholicity of his

ordination, and recognizes him as a duly consecrated bishop in The Anglican Church of Canada which is a church in full communion with The Episcopal Church.

11. In accordance with canon law and custom, and as would be the case with any other bishop of The Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop MacDonald will obtain the consent of the appropriate diocesan bishop in The Episcopal Church prior to exercising any ministerial function therein, as he does when he exercises such functions in the various dioceses in The Anglican Church of Canada.

SIGNED on the _____ day of _____ A.D. 2011 by Bishop Mark MacDonald

The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Reverend Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

The Presiding Bishop also shared the following message:

Greetings from Jerusalem in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I bring you my greetings and the greetings of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem to my brothers and sisters of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

Be assured of my continued prayers for you and the ministry God has given you during these challenging times. May your time together be guided by the Holy Spirit as a source of inspiration and direction for the decisions which are before you.

I want to take this moment to also offer my appreciation for your prayers and support of the ministry of my Diocese here in the land of the Holy One. May God continue to bless us all.

The Rt. Rev. Suheil S. Dawani,

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem

Elections

The following nominations for the Disciplinary Board for Bishops were made by the Presiding Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, 2012

The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith IV, 2012

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, 2012

The Rt. Rev. James Magness, 2012
The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, 2012
The Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, 2015
The Rt. Rev. Dorsey Henderson, 2015
The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith 2015
The Rt. Rev. James Waggoner, 2015
The Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick, 2015

Following announcement of the slate, Bishop Wayne Smith withdrew and upon nomination of Bishop Jacobus was replaced by the Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque, for a term to end in 2015. With the one change, the slate as presented was accepted by acclamation.

The following nomination for the Board of Directors for the College for Bishops was made and approved by acclamation: Allison St. Louis.

Resignations of Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander moved that consent be given for the resignation of the following bishops, all under the age provision in the canons:

The Rt. Rev. Roy F. "Bud" Cederholm as Bishop Suffragan in Massachusetts, to be effective January 1, 2012

The Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam as Bishop Suffragan in New York, to be effective January 1, 2012

The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolfe, as Bishop Diocesan in Rhode Island, to be effective at the end of 2012.

Motion Passed

Other Matters

Bishops with jurisdiction were reminded to turn in their consent forms regarding the request for the Diocese of Haiti to elect a Bishop Suffragan.

The Rt. Rev. John Chane made a request that the Presiding Bishop write to members of the Episcopal Church regarding the plight of Bishop Dawani and share with them a letter from the House of Bishops to the Israeli ambassadors of those nations where the Episcopal Church has dioceses or presence. The text to those communications is as follows.

To the members of The Episcopal Church
From the House of Bishops

At our meeting in Kanuga, North Carolina, 25-30 March 2011, we considered the plight of our fellow Christians in the land of the Holy One. Bishop Suheil Dawani, of the Diocese of Jerusalem, has for many months been gravely limited in his ability to function as leader of that diocese. We urge your

reflection on the following letter, and your response as you deem most appropriate. Change is likeliest when the leaders of our governments know of our urgent concern.

In every part of The Episcopal Church, your response is most likely to be effective when directed to Israel's ambassador to your nation, to your national leader – President and/or Prime Minister, and/or to your legislative representatives in your national government.

In the dioceses of The Episcopal Church within the United States, those contacts are: Ambassador Oren embsec@washington.mfa.gov.il

President Obama <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

House of Representatives: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Senate: http://senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

In the dioceses of The Episcopal Church beyond the United States, we urge you to work with your diocesan bishop if you are uncertain about how to contact the Israeli Ambassador, your President or Prime Minister, and your legislators.

May God bless the land of the Holy One with peace. I remain

Your servant in Christ,
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

A letter from the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church to the Israeli ambassadors to the nations where The Episcopal Church has dioceses or presence

30 March 2011

It is with deep concern that we inform you that the Anglican Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, has been denied renewal of his "Temporary Residency Status" in Jerusalem. This action was taken when the A-5 permits held by the bishop, his wife, and youngest daughter were revoked by the Government of Israel, effective 24 September 2010.

The Government of Israel claims that the permits were denied because of an accusation by the Ministry of the Interior that Bishop Suheil acted with the Palestinian Authority in transferring land owned by Jewish people to the Palestinians, and also helped to register lands of Jewish people in the name of the Church. There were further allegations that documents were forged by the bishop.

Bishop Dawani has vehemently denied these allegations and responded formally to the Ministry of the Interior. He has never received a response. The bishop also sent a letter challenging the allegations and demanding that any evidence to secure the claim against him be made known to him. To date no information has been forthcoming.

The Archbishop of Canterbury received assurances that the situation would be resolved promptly. Other Anglican leaders including Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington D.C. (the Rt. Rev. John B. Chane), and the Primates of the Anglican Communion, representing Anglicans throughout the world, have all used their influence individually and collectively with Israeli authorities, without success to date.

Diplomatic efforts through the British Foreign Secretary, the British Ambassador to Israel, the British Consul General in Jerusalem, the State Department of the United States, and the American Consul General in Jerusalem, and Christian and Jewish leaders in Jerusalem have all provided support for Bishop Dawani in his ongoing contact with Israeli authorities, but without tangible results. In terms of discovering the source of the allegations against the bishop, or the restoration of the residency rights which are crucial to his ability to provide leadership of his diocese, and residency in Jerusalem for himself and his family, the Israeli Government has failed to respond. Because of the current situation the bishop is unable to conduct any legal business on behalf of the diocese, and is crippled in his ability to run the day to day affairs of his diocese, which comprises schools, churches, and hospitals in Israel, the West Bank and occupied territories, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

We seek your assistance in resolving this situation as rapidly and completely as possible. The ability of our brother, Bishop Dawani, to lead his diocese is severely compromised. We ask your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

The bishops of The Episcopal Church, in 110 dioceses and two regional areas in Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, France, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Switzerland, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the United States of America (including Guam and Puerto Rico), and the British and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Committee on Pastoral Development was requested to bring guidelines regarding tweeting at HOB meetings and during General Convention to the next meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L Price Jr.

Secretary.

Attested

The Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick

Asst. Secretary

