

MINUTES
THE SPECIAL COUNCIL OF
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA
CALLED TO ELECT ITS ELEVENTH BISHOP

Saturday, September 21, 2019

Dinwiddie High School

Dinwiddie, Virginia

Opening:

At 10:00 a.m., a celebration of the holy Eucharist preceded the Special Council. Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore, the Rt. Rev. James B. Magness, was the celebrant and preacher.

At 11:00 a.m., Bishop Magness called the Special Council to order and welcomed the clergy and lay delegates to the opening session.

Report of the Committee on Credentials: The Rev. Charlie Bauer, Chairperson of the Committee on Credentials, reported that a quorum was present. The initial count of those present included 120 clergy and 200 lay delegates.

Mr. Sam Webster, Chancellor of the Diocese, explained that in accordance with Article VII (2) of the Constitution of the Diocese, this election required a concurrent two thirds majority of both orders.

Bishop's Appointments: Bishop Magness announced his appointments to Special Council Committees as follows:

Credentials: The Rev. Charlie Bauer, Chairperson; Mr. Rusty Bishop; The Rev. Susan Grimm, Standing Committee

Parliamentarian: Mr. Sam Webster, Chancellor

Committee to Certify the Minutes: The Rev. Elizabeth Felicetti; The Very Rev. Dale Custer; The Rev. Ralph Haines, Secretary

Dispatch of Business: The Rev. Michael Stone

Order of Business: The Rev. Michael Stone presented the following Order of Business and moved its adoption:

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Call to Order

Report of Committee on Credentials

Bishop's Appointments

Agenda / Order of Business

Rules of Order

Recognition of Ecumenical Visitors

Report of Standing Committee (Nominees)

Voting Instructions and Test Run

Prayer

First Ballot

Report of First Ballot

Prayer and Succeeding Ballots as necessary

Lunch

Prayer and Succeeding Ballots as necessary

Greetings from the Bishop Elect

Signing of the Testimonial of Election

Adjournment

The motion to adopt the Order of Business was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Rules of Order: The following Rules of Order were duly moved, seconded, and adopted unanimously:

Rules of Order for Election of Bishop

I. GENERAL PROVISION

- A. These Special Rules of Order for the Election of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, adopted pursuant to the Rules of Order of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, shall apply during Special Council in which the assembly is taking up the election of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Except as these Special Rules provide otherwise, the Rules of Order of Council shall continue in full force and effect.
- B. These Special Rules shall be effective when adopted by a two-thirds vote of Special Council. Once adopted, they may not thereafter be suspended or amended except upon motion duly made and seconded, and approved by two-thirds of Special Council.
- C. Immediately following the election, while Council remains in session, the President of Council shall arrange to have the Bishop-Elect informed of the election and shall receive that person's acceptance, which shall then be communicated to the Council.
- D. Immediately following the election, a constitutional majority of the Council shall affix their signatures to the testimonial required by Canon III.11.3 of The Episcopal Church, attesting to the due and lawful election of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.
- E. A press release announcing the results of the election will be made by the Diocesan Communications Officer. While members of the Council are not prohibited from talking with the press, it is requested that comments be held until notification of an official press release has been confirmed by announcement to members of Council.

II. VOTING PROCEDURES

- A. General
 - 1. The vote shall be by ballot and by Orders, a concurrent majority of the Orders being necessary for election, provided that two-thirds of all the Clergy entitled to vote and Lay Delegates from two-thirds of all the Parishes and Organized Missions entitled to representation be present; otherwise, two-thirds of the votes of each Order as determined by Article V of the Constitution of the Diocese shall be necessary for election. [Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia ("Constitution"), Art. VII, §2].

2. There shall be no write-in votes; any ballot with a write-in will be included in the total of ballots cast, but the vote for the person written in will be invalid.
3. There shall be no nominations from the floor.
4. Only Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Southern Virginia as determined pursuant to Article IV, §2, of the Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, and Lay delegates as determined pursuant to Article IV, §3, of the Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia shall be seated on the floor of Council and shall have the right to vote in the election.
5. Representatives from each Christian body with which The Episcopal Church has official dialogue, as determined by the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia and based on the work of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America shall be seated on the floor of Council and have the right to vote in the election. Each representative is to be appointed by, and his or her status as lay or clergy determined by, the appropriate judicatory leader or body.
6. The ballot shall list all candidates for the office of Bishop in alphabetical order. If an electronic voting procedure is used, the vendor's instructions for electronic voting shall be provided to the Special Council as an early order of business. Those instructions shall be consistent with the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia and these Rules of Order.
7. After each ballot, the voting results will be announced by stating or posting the name of each candidate and the number of votes received in each order by that candidate. The candidates will also be informed of the voting results, either in person or through a designated representative.
8. A candidate may remove his or her name from the ballot at any time during the voting by advising the Secretary in writing, either personally or through a designated representative.
9. An individual withdrawing a candidate's nomination shall not make any statement to endorse another candidate.
10. Voting shall continue until an election occurs or the President requests response from the Special Council to the question: "Shall the Special Council continue to ballot?" If the question is answered in the affirmative by a majority of the delegates present and entitled to vote, the Special Council shall act accordingly and continue the election process. If the

question is answered in the negative by a majority of delegates present and entitled to vote, the election process shall end, and the Special Council shall then consider what further course of action it wishes to follow.

B. Clerical Order – Eligibility to Vote

1. The Clerical order shall consist of the Bishops and all other Clergy not under ecclesiastical censure who are canonically resident in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. [Constitution, Art. IV, para. 1, 2, 4]. The official list of the Clergy of the Diocese with the names of those entitled to vote in the Council designated thereon shall be laid before the Council on the first day of the meeting and the roll of the Clerical Delegates entitled to vote shall be determined from it. [Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia (“Southern Virginia Canon”) I, §1].
2. The right of any member of the Clergy to membership in the Council shall, if challenged, be determined by the Council, according to the Constitution and Canons. [Southern Virginia Canon I, §2].

C. Lay Order – Eligibility to Vote

1. The Lay order shall be determined in accordance with Article IV, para. 3, 4 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Secretary of the Diocese shall prepare a list of the Lay Delegates and Alternates certified to the Secretary as duly elected with their respective Churches. The President of the Council shall appoint a Committee on Credentials, to be composed of Clergy and Lay Delegates, to which shall be referred the credentials of all Lay Delegates. [Southern Virginia Canon II, §3].
2. Alternates shall not be seated on the floor of the Council nor shall they have the right to vote. The process for a duly certified Alternate to replace a Delegate shall require that both return to Registration to have their credentials exchanged.
3. Should the right of any Lay Delegate or Alternate to membership in Council be challenged, the matter shall be referred to the Committee on Credentials. [Southern Virginia Canon II, §3].

Recognition of Ecumenical Guests: Bishop Magness recognized the following visitors to the Special Council:

The Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Interim General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches

Bishop Robert Humphrey, Virginia Synod, Lutheran Church

Report of the Standing Committee: The Rev. Susan Grimm, President, gave the report of the Standing Committee and moved approval of the following slate of candidates:

The Rev. Harold J. Cobb, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. J. Derek Harbin

The Rev. Canon John T. W. Harmon

The Rev. Susan B. Haynes

The Rev. Canon Victoria Heard

The Rev. Sven L. van Baars

The motion to approve the slate of candidates was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Voting Instructions: Ms. Rean Thomas of Turning Technologies, explained the voting procedure using the electronic device issued to all eligible voters, and conducted a trial run.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald, Chaplain for the Special Council, offered prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

First Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the first ballot.

Report of the First Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the first ballot as follows:

Results of First Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	80	134
Harold Cobb	5	12
Derek Harbin	14	27
John Harmon	21	50
Susan Haynes	36	45
Victoria Heard	10	15
Sven vanBaars	30	46

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary, to ascertain if any of the candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. There were no withdrawals.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the second ballot.

Second Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the second ballot.

Report of the Second Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the second ballot as follows:

Results of Second Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	80	134
Harold Cobb	2	6
Derek Harbin	10	20
John Harmon	19	52
Susan Haynes	44	53
Victoria Heard	3	7
Sven vanBaars	38	59

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary, to ascertain if any of the candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. There were no withdrawals.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the third ballot.

Third Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the third ballot.

Report of the Third Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the third ballot as follows:

Results of Third Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	80	134
Harold Cobb	2	2
Derek Harbin	3	5
John Harmon	14	47
Susan Haynes	50	61
Victoria Heard	0	1
Sven vanBaars	47	81

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary, to ascertain if any of the candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. The Secretary reported that the Rev. Victoria Herd had withdrawn.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the fourth ballot.

Fourth Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the fourth ballot.

Report of the Fourth Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the fourth ballot as follows:

Results of Fourth Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	80	134
Harold Cobb	1	1
Derek Harbin	3	4
John Harmon	8	32
Susan Haynes	54	60
Victoria Heard	Withdrawn	
Sven vanBaars	49	99

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary to ascertain if any of the remaining candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. There were no withdrawals.

Lunch Break: At 12:30 p.m. the Special Council recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the fifth ballot.

Fifth Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the fifth ballot.

Report of the Fifth Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the fifth ballot as follows:

Results of Fifth Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	77	130
Harold Cobb	2	1
Derek Harbin	1	3
John Harmon	2	16
Susan Haynes	59	79
Victoria Heard	Withdrawn	
Sven vanBaars	51	96

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary to ascertain if any of the remaining candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. There were no withdrawals.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the sixth ballot.

Sixth Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the sixth ballot.

Report of the Sixth Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the sixth ballot as follows:

Results of Sixth Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	77	130
Harold Cobb	1	2
Derek Harbin	1	2
John Harmon	0	4
Susan Haynes	63	84
Victoria Heard	Withdrawn	
Sven vanBaars	50	102

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary to ascertain if any of the remaining candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. The Secretary reported that the Rev. John Harmon had withdrawn.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the seventh ballot.

Seventh Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the seventh ballot.

Report of the Seventh Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the seventh ballot as follows:

Results of Seventh Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	76	130
Harold Cobb	1	2
Derek Harbin	1	3
John Harmon	Withdrawn	
Susan Haynes	62	90
Victoria Heard	Withdrawn	
Sven vanBaars	49	100

Bishop Magness called on the Rev. Ralph (Ned) Haines, Diocesan Secretary to ascertain if any of the remaining candidates had withdrawn their name from consideration. The Secretary reported that the Rev. Sven van Baars had withdrawn.

Prayer: The Rev. Lauren McDonald offered prayer in advance of the eighth ballot.

Eighth Ballot: The Special Council proceeded to cast the eighth ballot.

Report of the Eighth Ballot: The Rev. Susan Grimm reported the results of the eighth ballot as follows:

Results of Eighth Ballot

	CLERGY	LAY
NEEDED to ELECT	74	128
Harold Cobb	5	12
Derek Harbin	10	29
John Harmon	Withdrawn	
Susan Haynes	94	148
Victoria Heard	Withdrawn	
Sven vanBaars	Withdrawn	

Bishop Magness announced that the Rev Susan Haynes had been elected as the eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Bishop Elect Haynes was contacted by phone and accepted the results of the election.

Bishop Magness led the Special Council in the singing of the Doxology. Bishop Elect Haynes, via Zoom, offered greetings to the Council with these words: "I am really excited and looking forward to making the transition to Southern Virginia. Until I can get there I'm going to be saying my prayers and immersing myself in scripture and I would like to ask everyone in Southern Virginia to do the same so that when I get there we can all hit the ground running, doing the work of Jesus Christ and making him present in the diocese of Southern Virginia."

Bishop Magness reminded the Special Council that all clergy and lay delegates must sign the Testimonial of Election located in the hallway before leaving.

Bishop Magness then offered a closing prayer and his blessing. He then declared the Special Council adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Ralph E. (Ned) Haines,
Secretary