

# The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

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## **Memo from Bishop Benhase Concerning Upcoming Diocesan Events**

The Presiding Bishop announced today that the Episcopal Church will "follow certain principles to balance concerns for participation and public health" in the ordination and consecration of bishops. This includes using smaller venues, minimizing in-person attendance, utilizing live-streaming technology, and foregoing social events.

This is the Presiding Bishop's full announcement:

[A Word to the Church Regarding Ordinations and Consecrations of Bishops](#)

Bishop-elect Logue and I have been meeting online with members of the Presiding Bishop's staff and the bishops and bishops-elect of dioceses with consecrations scheduled between April and June of 2020. Based on those conversations, we can state that the Presiding Bishop still plans to come to Savannah for Bishop-elect Logue's consecration. Though the date remains May 30, significant changes need to occur.

*Changes for events between now and May 31 are listed below.*

[Click here for a PDF of this schedule.](#)

### **April & Early May Events**

- **April 17 - Bishop's Retirement Celebration at Starland Yard (5 p.m.)** - The celebration for Kelly & me is postponed to a date in Fall 2020. Please keep an eye out for future details.
- **April 26 - Ordination of Ranie Neislar at St Paul's, Augusta (5 p.m.)** - The ordination service will occur as planned, but it will be limited to no more than 30 people total.
- **May 1 - Gayle Dawson's Retirement Party at Diocesan House (5 p.m.)** - The retirement celebration honoring Gayle Dawson for her 21 years of service to the Diocese will be a small, intimate dinner with only staff. We will find a way to gather thanks from across the Diocese.

- **May 2 - Ordination of Victor Moreno at St. Paul's, Savannah (10:30 a.m.)** - The ordination service will occur as planned, but it will be limited to no more than 30 people total.
- **May 9 - Ordination of Kevin Veitinger & Nathan Wilson at St. Michael's and All Angels, Savannah (10:30 a.m.)** - The ordination service will occur as planned, but it will be limited to no more than 30 people total.

### **11th Bishop of Georgia Consecration Weekend:**

- **May 29 - Friday Dinner with Bishop-elect at the Charles Morris Center**- This dinner will be limited to consecration participants and the Bishop-elect's family only. This dinner will be limited to consecration participants and the Bishop-elect's family only. For those who purchased tickets to this event, look for a direct communication about refunds.
- **May 30 - Consecration of Bishop-elect Frank Logue** - The Consecration of the 11th Bishop of Georgia will be limited to those canonically required for the liturgy and some close family with fewer than 30 people total in attendance. We will have the event live-streamed online. We will release more details on how to participate in the Consecration through that live-stream as those details are finalized.
- **May 31 - Sunday Eucharist in Forsyth Park with the Presiding Bishop** - This event will be postponed to a future date.

### **Diocesan Sponsored Meetings:**

All Diocesan sponsored meetings, including the upcoming Diocesan Council meeting on April 17, will be held via Zoom videoconferencing. Individuals impacted will receive direct communication and resources to conduct meetings via Zoom.

Individuals who are scheduled to attend upcoming CDI, EQHR, and other training events across the Diocese will be receiving direct communication from the Rev. Walter Hobgood, Director of Leadership Ministries ([wphobg@gmail.com](mailto:wphobg@gmail.com)), regarding their events.

### Diocesan Clergy Gatherings:

- **April 6 & 7 - Clergy Chrism Masses in Tifton & Statesboro.** No decision has been made on these events yet. We will discuss this with clergy in a Zoom meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, March 19.
- **May 4-6 - Spring Clergy Conference at Honey Creek.** No decision has been made on Clergy Conference at this time. As with the Chrism Masses, we will discuss this with clergy in Thursday afternoon's online meeting.

### Diocesan Youth Events:

Canon Varner will communicate widely to all and specifically to youth and their parents about any changes in upcoming youth events. If you or youth in your parish have registered for such an event, please be on the lookout for communication from Canon Varner ([jvarner@gaepiscopal.org](mailto:jvarner@gaepiscopal.org)).

### Questions and Next Steps:

I am well aware that the need to adjust our plans is deeply disappointing and I regret the need to shift these events. However, in this time of uncertainty it is most important to care for and support the health and wellbeing of our brothers & sisters in Christ and our neighbors. If you have questions, please reach out to me ([bishop@gaepiscopal.org](mailto:bishop@gaepiscopal.org)) or Bishop-elect Logue ([flogue@gaepiscopal.org](mailto:flogue@gaepiscopal.org)).

*God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm  
and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to all  
who wait or work in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make them the equal  
of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you.*

**-Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 765**