

Conservative Episcopalians plan for future

By Richard N. Ostling
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLANO, Texas – Conservative Episcopalians appeared on track to launch a new nationwide protest organization Tuesday as they began the second and final day of a meeting to launch their Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes.

The movement, which hopes for significant support from foreign Anglicans, was prompted by the decision of an Episcopal Church convention last August to approve openly gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

But Bishop Robert Duncan of Pittsburgh, the group's leader, told a Monday news briefing that Robinson's name wasn't even men-

tioned during the first day's deliberations.

Instead, he said, the 100 bishops, representing 12 dioceses and various conservative parishes in other dioceses, focused on building "a united, orthodox and missionary Anglicanism" in the United States.

The delegates at the meeting plan to complete an organizational charter for the network. They also are trying to produce a new theological statement based upon previous conservative platforms.

Organizers say the network is no schism but a "church within a church" whose followers will remain Episcopalians. One reason not to quit: most parishes would be forced to surrender their properties to the denomination.

Duncan said the Episcopal Church "split from its own history" when it endorsed Robinson, while the network upholds traditional Episcopal teaching, "so who left?"

Episcopal Church headquarters in New York has issued no formal statement about the meeting.

The Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch of the international Anglican Communion, in which many overseas churches have protested Robinson's consecration. Some have broken fellowship with the Episcopal Church or its majority of pro-gay bishops.

The network hopes to become the American entity to which foreign Anglicans can relate. Canon Bill Atwood of the Texas-based Ekklesia Society, which aids churches in developing

nations, said in a phone interview from Uganda that bishops who lead a majority of the world's Anglicans are preparing a joint statement to recognize the network.

A leaked memo from one network activist said the ultimate goal is a "replacement" jurisdiction aligned with world Anglicanism. A key leader said Sunday that the concept originated with the overseas Anglican leaders and decisions on replacement are up to them.

The chief business of the Plano meeting is to agree on an organizational charter to govern the network's early phase. Some delegates worked Monday night in hopes of also fashioning a theological declaration drawn from previous conservative documents.

Perhaps the touchiest

issue is whether the network should send bishops to minister to conservative parishes in liberal dioceses, even without denominational permission.

The 12 dioceses at the heart of the network have 235,000 members, or a 10th of the nation's Episcopalians, though some parishioners in these dioceses hold liberal views.

The world Anglican leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, named a

commission to report by Sept. 30 on solutions to the global division over the U.S. actions and a parallel dispute over Canadian church blessings for same-sex couples.

On the Net:
American Anglican Council: <http://www.americananglican.org>
Network: <http://www.anglican-uniondioceses.org>
Episcopal Church: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org>

Give your mouse something else to do.
Click on thecharlottepost.com

Protests against head scarf ban expected in France, Britain, Canada and U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS – Police expect 10,000-20,000 protesters Saturday at a march through Paris against the outlawing of Muslim head scarves in schools. Other protests are expected in the United States, Canada and Britain.

The demonstrations would be the biggest coordinated protest against a draft law that will forbid Muslim head scarves, Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses in French public schools.

The government, worried about the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, aims to have the law operating for the start of the 2004-2005

school year in September. It says Muslim scarves and other obvious religious symbols must be forced out of schools to keep them secular. Islamic leaders say the law will stigmatize France's estimated 5 million Muslims, who make up 8 percent of the population.

Saturday's march through northeastern Paris to the Place de la Nation begins at 1 p.m. It was called by the Party of French Muslims. Protests are also expected in other French cities including Marseille, Lille, Bordeaux, Nice and Toulouse. Shouting "The veil, my choice," about 3,000 people took part in a similar protest in Paris on Dec. 21.

More than half were women, girls and even young children wearing the "hijab," or head scarf.

Protests also are planned Saturday, mostly outside French consulates and embassies, in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., and in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in Canada, organizers said.

A few thousand people are expected in all, said Shaheen Kazi, national office manager at the Muslim Students Association of the U.S. and Canada. "The hijab is so central to the Muslim woman's identity," Kazi said. "If we don't stand

up for this issue when it happens in a European country or anywhere else, then it could be like a wave that could carry on throughout Europe and then we don't know how far it would spread."

In Britain, protests are planned outside the French Embassy in London and a French consulate in Edinburgh, Scotland. They were called by the Muslim Association of Britain and the Muslim Women Society. "Hijab is part of a Muslim woman's faith," the association said on its Web site. "The French government must realize that it has made a huge mistake."

CHURCH NEWS

Revival at Liberty Baptist Church

Continued from page 8B

January 24

The District III Ushers will hold its quarterly meeting at 10 am at Reeder Memorial Baptist Church at 3725 Beatties Ford Road.

• Medgar-Evers College Imani Singers of Brooklyn, NY will be in concert at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church at 3301 Beatties Ford Road at 7 p.m.

January 30

Live Ministries in collaboration with seven Charlotte area churches will present "I'm Mad" youth rally at 3117 Whiting Avenue at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to young adults ages 12-20.

January 30-31

Yadkin Grove Baptist Church Consecration and Connection Service "The Outpouring Of The Oil" will be held at 325 Leonard Road, Salisbury

February 9-10

Liberty Baptist Church at 3000 Sam Wilson Road will hold its revival conference at 7 p.m.

February 21

Winston-Salem State University Concert Choir will perform at Friendship Missionary Baptist church at 3301 Beatties Ford Road.

February 25

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Friendship Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

February 29

Fifth Sunday Hymnsing: A Celebration of Our Heritage-Metered Hymns & Spirituals will be held at 5:30 p.m.




Ad Council

National Fatherhood Initiative
www.fatherhood.org

The Charlotte Post Church Directory


†††
Silver Mount Baptist Church
"Continuing the legacy - By Fulfilling the Vision"
Come And Worship With Us!
Morning Worship Service 9:45am Children's Church
Sunday School 8:45am Wed. Night Bible Study 7:00pm



701 W. Arrowood Road - Charlotte NC 28217
(704) 522-1528 • (704) 527-2499 - fax
www.silvermount.org
email: smbc501@bellsouth.net

"The Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord" - Exodus 20:10
Northeast SDA Church
827 Tom Hunter Rd. • P.O. Box 560647
Charlotte, NC 28256
(704)394-5615 Office • (704)596-9767 Fax
Frank L. Harrell, Sr. - Pastor

Sabbath School..... 9:15a.m.
Sabbath Service..... 11:00a.m.
Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00p.m.




Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
517 Baldwin Ave. • Charlotte, NC 28204
(704)376-1201 Office • (704)376-3344 Fax
Rev. J.A. Cuthbertson - Pastor
Office Hours: 9am - 3pm
Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.

Worship Service..... 11:00a.m.

Rejoice!



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
"Telling and Living the Good News of Jesus Christ"



- Outreach & Nurture Ministries For All Ages -
Spirit-led Sunday Worship: 11am
Sunday School: 9:30am
Wed. Prayer, Praise & Bible Study: 7pm
Radio Ministry: Fri. 10am. WGSP 1310 AM
- Rev. Quentin G. Poulson, Pastor -
3001 Beatties Fd. Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216-3731
† Phone: 704-392-6098 • E-mail: POPAX@bellsouth.net †
Website: www.LutheranOutreach.org/Prince of Peace, htm

† **God's Meeting Place**
Christian Fellowship

Sunday Morning Worship...9:45am
Temporary Location: Steele Creek Elementary School
4100 Gallant Lane • Charlotte, NC
For Information Call: 704-825-4017



Rev. Charles Wesley Reid, Founding Pastor
"It's Your Time - Walk Into Your Season"

REEDER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and share "The Journey" with us.
Sunday Morning Worship - 8 am and 10:45 am
Sunday School -9:30 am
Tuesday Bible Study-7:30 pm

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY MAKING CONNECTIONS
WITH YOUR FUTURE

3725 Beatties Ford Rd. • 704-398-2914