

DIOCESE OF ATLANTA



2744 PEACHTREE ROAD, N. E. - ATLANTA 5 - GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
THE RT. REV. RANDOLPH R. CLAIBORNE, JR.

April 9, 1963

The Rev. John Morris
Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity
5 Forsyth Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of April 5th. I am reassured that you wish to have better communication and cooperation as we work for desegregation and racial unity. I note that you will "call for an appointment at any time this seems in order".

For an understanding of when it would certainly be in order for you to call me, first let me remind you of our Diocesan process for accomplishing integration in all Diocesan programs and institutions. Several years ago it was agreed that The Standing Committee of the Diocese, composed of responsible clergy and laity, would be the group to plan and time orderly integration within the Diocese. This has worked extremely well, as you know, from the record of this Diocese.

Of course, The Standing Committee has no legal control over parishes, parochial institutions, or institutions of varying degrees of Church-relatedness, such as Lovett School or Canterbury Court. However, I am sure they would have great moral persuasion and influence in any of these institutions. Therefore, even though The Standing Committee does not have control over any of these institutions, we still plan that they be the body to handle effective integration wherever and whenever they can, by influence or persuasion.

Therefore, with any parochial institutions or Church-related institutions the first step of cooperation would be to approach both The Standing Committee and Bishop, as so many have done in the past. If this had been done in the Lovett situation, there might have been a different story written for history. Of course, I simply cannot "chase down" every rumor or copy of a letter about a possibility, and must depend upon you along with other responsible clergy and Diocesan groups to keep me informed and to seek my help and that of The Standing Committee. This is the "official" channel for such matters in the Diocese.

April 9, 1963

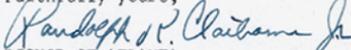
Thank you for the copy of your letter of April 2nd to Mr. Frank Player regarding Canterbury Court. Again, in this matter, it might have proved more effective for you to have approached The Standing Committee and me for whatever help might be indicated in The Canterbury Court situation. While I do not know much about Canterbury Court or what you may have heard from Mr. Player, I trust that you will follow hereafter with Canterbury Court or other such institutions our Diocesan channels which have proved so effective in the past. This procedure, of course, would have nothing to do with such groups as the Northside YMCA, which you mentioned.

Therefore, what I am saying in summary is that it is "in order" for you as a resident in our Diocese to cooperate and communicate with The Standing Committee and me on any and all matters of integration involving any group or organization related to the Episcopal Church in the Diocese. After this is done and due time has been given the Standing Committee and Bishop for effective work, you may then find in conscience that you cannot follow the advice and program of the Bishop and Standing Committee. At this point you would then have to make your own decision and choice of a course of action thereafter: whether to continue working through the official channel of the Diocese or to follow a unilateral course outside the Diocesan channel.

I hope that you see the wisdom of this procedure which has justified itself many times through real progress in the past, and that you can cooperate and communicate in this way hereafter within the Diocese of Atlanta. This procedure would in the Diocese of Atlanta be in keeping with your sentence to Mr. Player that your Society "is a voluntary association of Episcopal Church clergy and laity who are working for desegregation within the Church".

Looking forward to hearing from you anytime, I remain

Faithfully yours,


BISHOP OF ATLANTA