

**Minutes of the
131st Annual Council
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
February 22-26, 2022**

**Plenary Business Session
Saturday, February 25, 2023
DoubleTree Hotel in Williamsburg, VA**

At 9:30 a.m., the Bishop called the meeting to order and opened with Psalm 133 and prayers for the Church and this Convention.

The Report of the Committee on Credentials and Certification of Quorum

The Rev. Charlie Bauer thanked the Rev. Jacqueline Soltys and Mr. Rusty Bishop as members of the Committee. He certified that a quorum of clergy and lay delegates are present. We have a quorum in both orders, with 78 clergy and 78 congregations represented.

Announcements (Dispatch of Business)

The Rev. Michael Stone reminded those present to silence their phones, be aware that our meeting was being live-broadcasted, and asked all present to wear their nametags. He also noted that the voting devices distributed to lay delegates and clergy must be returned. He also noted the presence of UTO boxes on each table at the request of the UTO Coordinator.

The Bishop then introduced those on the dais.

Bishop Haynes was excited to announce the Diocesan Revival to take place at the end of April, and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be with us. A video greeting from Bishop Curry was presented, and the Planning Team, Canons Harlan and Farlin, were recognized.

Adoption of Rules of Order of Council

The Bishop entertained a motion to adopt the Rules of Order as published. A motion was made and seconded from the floor to adopt the Rules of Order, and the motion was passed

Rules of Order for 131st Annual Council

I—ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Council shall be duly organized when the President shall have taken the chair and satisfactory evidence of a quorum been made.

Section 2. After the organization of Council, the President shall appoint the following Committees of Council:

- a. *Credentials*—A committee of three, of both clergy and lay.

- b. *Agenda*—A committee to expedite the Agenda of Council prior to Council and during it, if necessary.
- c. *Dispatch of Business*—One or more persons, the number to be determined by the President of Council, to expedite the business of council prior to and during the time of council.
- d. *Constitution and Canons*—A committee of four, two of each order, the duties of which are to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese both during and between Councils and to report to the Council with recommendations as to form or substance or both. Members of this committee take office at the conclusion of the Annual Council at which they are appointed. They serve continuously until their successors are appointed and take office. Interim appointments to fill vacancies may be made by the President of Council.
- e. *Resolutions and Memorials*—A committee of four, two of each order, to which shall be referred all proposed Resolutions and Memorials. This Committee is charged with editing, as appropriate or necessary, all material submitted as Resolutions or Memorials, reporting them, if deemed in order, to Council with or without recommendation(s). Excepted are those which under these Rules are properly referable to some other committee.
- f. *Journal of Council*—A committee of two, of which the Secretary of the Diocese shall be chairperson, charged with the preparation of the Journal of Council for publication.
- g. *Committee to Certify the Minutes of Council*—a committee of three, one of whom shall be the Diocesan Secretary, who shall certify the Minutes of Council prior to publication of the Journal.

Section 3. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian for any meeting of Council.

Section 4. An Agenda and an Order of Business shall be early enacted. They shall allow for reports and addresses, elections, petitions, program and budget, and matters pertaining to the schedule of Council.

II—PROCEDURE FOR DEBATE AND ACTION

Section 1. The Rules of Order as last enacted shall remain in force until changed by a later Council.

Section 2. All resolutions, including those for the Rules of Order of Council, shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Diocese sixty days prior to Council's annual convening, which will allow for their dissemination to delegates prior to the annual meeting. Such resolutions shall automatically be deemed in possession of Council.

- a. Resolutions, including those for the Rules of Order of Council, not previously submitted to the Secretary of the Diocese for this Council will be permitted from the floor upon a two-thirds vote only at the start of the first business session of Council and only when they carry a clear statement in writing of the circumstances that led to the request for their consideration. Such resolutions should be duplicated in advance.
- b. No other substantive resolutions shall be later introduced unless two-thirds (2/3) of those present shall consent.

Section 3. Resolutions affecting the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese not submitted sixty days prior to the convening of Council may be introduced only if:

- a. They are designated as “emergency” by the President of Council; and
- b. They are accepted as an item of business by two-thirds (2/3) of delegates voting.

Section 4. All main motions and amendments shall be reduced to writing and read by the Secretary of the Council before they shall be debated; and none shall be debated until seconded.

Section 5. All motions affecting the Rules of Order of Council shall be submitted as an early order of business at Council, and opportunity shall be given for the offering of such motions. Motions affecting the Rules of Order not submitted sixty days in advance of council in accordance with Section 1 must receive a two-thirds majority in order to be enacted.

Section 6. No new motion or proposition shall be admitted under color of an amendment or substitute for the matter under consideration.

Section 7. If the question under debate contains several distinct propositions, the same shall be divided at the request of any member, and a vote taken separately, except that a motion to strike out and insert shall be indivisible.

Section 8. When a proposed amendment is under consideration, a motion to amend the same may be made, but no further amendment to such second amendment shall be in order; but a substitute to both amendments may be received, and if adopted, shall operate as an amendment to the original proposition.

Section 9. When a question is under consideration, no motion shall be received except to adjourn, to lay it upon the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a certain time, to postpone indefinitely, to commit it, to amend it or to substitute for amendments as in the last section, to limit or extend the limits of debate, to suspend rules, or to go into informal consideration of the matter at hand; and motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order herein named. However, a motion to table, to move the previous question, to postpone or to commit a resolution shall not be in order unless opportunity to speak on the resolution has been afforded to at least two proponents and two opponents. If a motion to lay an amendment on the table is adopted, the matter before the Council shall be considered as if no such amendment had been offered.

Section 10. Motions to lay on the table or adjourn shall be decided without debate; and such motions shall always be in order, except while a member has the floor, or a vote on any question is being taken. Until decided, all debate, amendments, and other motions shall be out of order.

Section 11. Motions for the previous question, i.e., to close debate and proceed immediately to vote on the pending question, shall not be debatable and shall be decided by a majority vote.

Section 12. When a question has been decided by the Council or postponed indefinitely, a motion to reconsider can only be made by one member and seconded by another who voted

with the majority. A motion to reconsider must be made the same day the vote is taken, or on the succeeding day.

Section 13. When a member desires to speak or present any matter to the Council, the member shall rise and respectfully address the President, and shall confine all remarks to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities. On debatable matters under consideration, speakers may address Council for up to three minutes, except that upon request, a majority vote may extend this time to a length specified; and no speaker shall be heard more than once upon the same motion or amendment until all others desiring to speak have had opportunity.

Section 14. If any member trespasses the Rules of Order of Council, the President shall, or any other members may, call that person to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately be seated, unless permitted to explain, until the question of the order is decided by the President.

Section 15. All questions of order shall be decided by the President without debate, but any member may appeal such decision, and on such appeal no member shall speak more than once without the permission of the Council.

Section 16. The names of the movers of all resolutions shall appear upon the Minutes of Council. In order to be considered by Council, all resolutions must be moved by:

- a. A member of Council as defined in Article IV of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia; or,
- b. A majority vote of a duly called meeting of the vestry of a parish or organized mission which is entitled to one or more lay delegates at Council as defined in Article IV of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia; or,
- c. A majority vote of a duly called meeting of the Executive Board, any Department or Committee of the Executive Board, Commission of the Diocese, Committee of the Diocese, Committee of Council or Corporation of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Section 17. When two or more members rise at once, the President shall say who is entitled to the floor, and from such decision there shall be no appeal.

Section 18. The vote on any question shall be taken by ayes and noes, unless five members demand a vote by orders, as required by the Constitution.

Section 19. Every member who may be in the house when the question is put shall vote, unless the Council, for special reasons, shall excuse a member from voting.

Section 20. No member shall vote upon a question in the decision of which that member is immediately and personally interested.

Section 21. Upon a division and count no member shall be counted who is not within the limits assigned as seats of members.

Section 22. The reports of all committees shall be in writing, and all reports recommending or requiring any action or expression of opinion by the Council, shall be accompanied by the proper resolutions expressing the same for the consideration of the Council.

Section 23. Motions affecting the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese which have passed a first reading in the previously appropriate Council shall be called up for action before consideration is given to any new or revised alternatives dealing with substantially the same substance.

Section 24. Except when in conflict with church Constitution or Canons, or any Rule of Order herein contained, the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the interpretation of these Rules and the procedure to be followed in Council.

III—ELECTIONS

Section 1. Thirty days, or more, before the meeting of Council, the Bishop shall appoint a Chairperson of Tellers for the ensuing meeting.

Section 2. Voting shall be by electronic means with a third-party vendor serving as teller of votes.

Section 3. The duties of the Chairperson of Tellers shall be as follows:

- a. To supervise the electronic voting; to liaison with the teller; to supervise the recording of nominations; and to supervise the tabulation of votes.
- b. As directed by the Bishop, to make report to the Council the results of the balloting.

Section 4. All elections shall be by secret ballot, except in cases where the number of nominees equals the number of offices to be filled. Then the election may be by unanimous consent, the Secretary of the Council casting the unanimous ballot of the Council for the nominee or nominees.

Section 5. All nominations shall be made as an early item of business (in Council). After the nominations for each office have been closed by vote of Council, no further nominations may be made. However, “write-ins” at the time of balloting will be valid.

Section 6. Ballots shall be in electronic form. The names of the nominees and any other information concerning the number to be elected for each office and from each category, the requirements for election or such other information as may be needed will be included on the ballots.

Section 7. The Committee on Credentials shall furnish the Chairperson of Tellers before the time of voting one list of the clerical delegates eligible to vote and one list of the lay delegates eligible to vote. These lists shall be in alphabetical order.

Section 8. Elections shall be an order of business as early as possible and shall continue until completed. The Council may proceed with other business while votes are being tabulated, but

reports of the Chairperson of Tellers and re-balloting, if necessary, shall take precedence over all other business.

Section 9. The procedure of voting shall be as follows:

- a. Secret electronic ballots from both clerical and lay delegates shall be received by the third-party vendor.
- b. If voting on the first ballot does not produce the majority needed to elect persons for all the offices to be filled by a majority vote, the number of candidates on the next ballot will be reduced by a number equal to one-half ($1/2$) of the number of candidates in excess of those needed to be elected. The number of candidates in excess of those needed to be elected is defined as the number of remaining unelected candidates minus the number of offices remaining to be filled (rounding off to the larger rather than the smaller number of candidates for the next ballot). This procedure shall be used on subsequent ballots until such time as each and every person to be elected has received a majority vote.
- c. In case of electing Deputies and Alternates to General Convention, the following procedure shall be used:
 - (i) Balloting for Deputies shall continue according to Rule of Order III, Section 8.b until the total number of persons elected by majority vote equals the total number of Deputies required to be elected. The persons elected shall be ranked first by the ballot on which they were elected (the earlier ballot having higher rank) and second, within that ballot by the total votes cast for each candidate (the candidate with the higher number of votes having the higher rank).
 - (ii) Balloting for Alternates shall continue according to Rule of Order III, Section 8.b until the total number of persons elected by majority vote equals the total number of Alternates required to be elected. The persons elected shall be ranked first by the ballot on which they were elected (the earlier ballot having higher rank) and second, within that ballot by the total votes cast for each candidate (the candidate with the higher number of votes having the higher rank).

Section 10. When the balloting has been concluded, the Chairperson of Tellers shall report the result as outlined above.

Section 11. When any re-balloting has been concluded, the Chairperson of Tellers shall report the result as outlined above.

IV—GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 1. Members of Council shall attend all sessions unless by urgent cause prevented.

Section 2. The President has discretion to designate seats outside the limits of those allotted to the use of members for the seating of visitors to Council.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

The Bishop entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as published. A motion was made and seconded from the floor to adopt the Consent Agenda.

a. Appointment of Council Committees & Parliamentarian

CREDENTIALS

The Rev. Charlie Bauer, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg
Mr. Rusty Bishop, St. Timothy's, Clarksville
The Rev. Jacqueline Soltys, Good Shepherd, Norfolk

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL

The Rt. Rev. Susan Haynes
Secretary of the Diocese
Chair for Dispatch of Business
Diocesan Staff Personnel
Chancellor
Chair of Constitution and Canons
Chair of Resolutions and Memorials
Chair of Liturgical Commission

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS

The Rev. Michael Stone, Christ Church, Amelia

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Ms. Anne Bibeau, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Grimm
The Rev. Dr. Connie Jones, St. Andrew's, Norfolk
Mr. Rusty Bishop, St. Timothy's, Clarksville

RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS

The Very Rev. Keith Emerson, St. Paul's, Suffolk
The Rev. Julia Messer-Croteau, St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach
Mrs. Janet Estes, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg
Mr. John Rector, St. Paul's, Suffolk

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Grimm
Ms. Susan Allen, Diocesan Staff

COMMITTEE TO CERTIFY THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL

The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Grimm
The Rev. Dale Custer, St. Luke's, Powhatan
The Very Rev. Jeunée Godsey, St. Michael's, Bon Air

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ms. Anne Bibeau, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

TELLERS

The Rev. Gini DiStanislao, Manakin, Powhatan
Mr. Ron Rinaldi, Echo 360

b. Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Greeting from Bishop Haynes – 9:30 a.m.
2. Report of the Committee on Credentials and Certification of Quorum
3. Announcements (Dispatch of Business)
4. Adoption of Rules of Order of Council
5. Adoption of Consent Agenda:
 - a. Appointment of Council Committees & Parliamentarian
 - b. Order of Business
 - c. Approval of Minutes of the 130th Annual Council
 - d. Election of Officers, Committees, & Commissions Nominated by the Bishop
 - e. Granting of Seat & Voice
6. Receipt and Referral of Resolutions
7. Recognition of Visitors
8. Announcement of Executive Board Elections
9. Appointment of Deans
10. Introduction of Clergy New to the Diocese
11. Holy Eucharist with Bishop's Annual Report
- Break
12. Report of Committee on Nominations
13. Elections
14. Vote on Constitutional Resolutions
15. Blessing and Lunch – 12:15-1:30 p.m.
16. Council Reconvenes – 1:30 p.m.
17. Introduction of Postulants & Candidates
18. Memorial Resolutions
19. Repairers of the Breach: Our Racial Healing Journey
20. Keynote Speaker
- Break
21. Financial Review and Budget
22. Introduction of Diocesan Staff
23. Closing Worship
24. Council Adjourns

c. Approval of Minutes of the 130th Annual Council

d. Election of Officers, Committees, & Commissions Nominated by the Bishop

CHANCELLOR (Article XIII)

Ms. Anne Bibeau, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

HISTORIOGRAPHER (Article XIV)

The Rev. William Taylor, St. John's, Hopewell

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (Canon XII)

The Rev. Mimi Lacy, Emmanuel, Virginia Beach (Chair)

Ms. Isabel Burch, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

The Rev. Ron Ramsey

Mr. Rusty Bishop, St. Timothy's, Clarksville

The Rev. Jan Brown, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

Ms. Caryl Felty, All Saints, Virginia Beach

The Rev. Dale Custer, St. Luke's, Powhatan

The Rev. Ashley Urquidi, All Saints, Virginia Beach

The Rev. Timothy Fulop, Christ Church, Danville

The Rev. Grace Rigby, Redeemer, Midlothian

The Rev. Philip Shearin, Peninsula Ministry Partnership, Newport News

The Rev. Leslie Ferguson, St. John's, Suffolk

COMMISSION ON STATUS OF PARISHES AND MISSIONS (Canon XIII)

The Very Rev. Eve Butler-Gee, Martin's Brandon, Disputanta (Chair)

Mr. James Clements, Martin's Brandon, Disputanta

Ms. Kathy Clements, Martin's Brandon, Disputanta

The Rev. Lisa Green, St. Martin's, Williamsburg

Ms. Lucy Jones Rothnie, Hickory Neck, Toano

Mr. Raymond Gallagher, Christ Church, Amelia

COMMISSION ON CHURCH ARCHITECTURE (Canon XXVIII)

Mr. Scott Spence, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

e. Granting of Seat & Voice

PAROCHIAL CLERGY & RETIRED CLERGY (NON-CANONICALLY RESIDENT)

The Rev. Carol Chamberlain, PA

The Rev. Diane Hill, RG

The Rev. James Hunter, RG

The Rev. Kyle Mackey, AT

The Rev. Alan Mead, CP

The Rev. Deborah Rankin, WVA
The Rev. Chip Russell, IND
The Rev. Samuel Sheridan, VA
The Rev. Peter Stimpson, NJ
The Rev. Mary Thorpe, VA
The Rev. Noah Van Niel, NC
The Rev. Mary Margaret Winn, VA

POSTULANTS & CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS

Ms. Talley Banazek – Redeemer, Midlothian
Ms. Robin Brown – St. Andrew's, Norfolk
Ms. Allison Johnson – Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
Ms. Marie Kirk-Clunan – Galilee, Virginia Beach
Ms. Allison Pace – Redeemer, Midlothian
Mr. Daniel Toven – Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk
Ms. Rebecca Troutman – Emmanuel, Virginia Beach
Ms. Anne Zobel – All Saints', Virginia Beach

YOUTH & COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Abby Cheney – EYC Board, Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk
Mr. Brentton Fentress – EYC Board, St. Paul's, Norfolk
Mr. Iain Fergusson – EYC Board, St. Thomas', Chesapeake
Ms. Allyssa Gardner – EYC Board, Emmanuel, Virginia Beach
Mr. Sebastien Jacques – EYC Board, St. Thomas', Chesapeake
Ms. Amelia Keck – EYC Board, Old Donation, Virginia Beach
Mr. Curren Lankford – EYC Board, Chanco on the James
Mr. Lucas Philput – EYC Board, St. Andrew's, Norfolk
Ms. Patti Glowatsky – EYC Chaperone, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
Ms. Cornelia Taylor – EYC Chaperone, St. Cyprian's, Hampton
Ms. Allie Sears – College Representative, Christopher Newport University

OTHER

The Rev. Canon Lydia Kelsey Bucklin, Keynote Speaker
Mr. Ron Rinaldi, Echo 360
Ms. Patricia Mead, Chaplain to the Retired
Ms. Susan Allen, Program & Benefits Administrator
Ms. Shauna Daley, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Megan Dern, Youth & Young Adult Missioner
Ms. Judy Dobson, Director of Finance & Administration
Canon Lynn Farlin, Canon for Formation
The Rev. Canon James Harlan, Canon Evangelist, SEFLA
Mr. Gareth Kalfas, Missioner for Camp & Retreat Ministries
Ms. Hope Leach, Finance Officer

Mr. Chris Ochillo, Data Processor
Ms. Leah Sicignano, Bishop's Executive Secretary
Mr. Ben Urquidi, Media Specialist

The Consent Agenda was adopted by electronic vote.

Receipt and Referral of Resolutions

Chancellor Anne Bibeau noted that there are 2 Constitution Resolutions to be considered for their second reading. The Rev. Keith Emerson reported that there were 11 memorial resolutions and one memorial resolution, R-1, to be submitted to the General Convention.

Recognition of Visitors

The Bishop recognized the following ecumenical guests:

The Rev. MaryAnn Glover, General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches

Deacon Gary Harmeyer of Holy Apostles Anglican/Roman Catholic Church in Virginia Beach.

Announcement of Executive Board Elections

The Bishop presented the new members of the Executive Board:

New members are David Ingold, the Rev. Jacqueline Soltys, Charles Edmonson, Rick Mason, and the Rev. Bill Taylor.

The Bishop thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Board: The Very Rev. Stewart Tabb and Jacqueline Bontemps.

The Executive Board

		Term ends
Convocation I	The Rev. Janet Wheelock	2026
	Mr. David Ingold	2025
Convocation II	The Rev. Ashley Urquidi	2024
	Ms. Nina Joyner	2025
Convocation III	The Rev. Jacqueline Soltys	2026
	Mr. Jerome Bynum	2025
Convocation IV	The Rev. Donna Hines	2026
	Dr. Faye Felton	2024
Convocation V	The Rev. Mark Riley	2024
	Mr. Charles Edmonson	2026
Convocation VI	The Rev. William Taylor	2026
	Ms. Robin Magee	2024
Convocation VII	The Rev. Brenda Overfield	2024
	Mr. Rick Mason	2025
Convocation VIII	The Rev. Liam Muller	2026
	Ms. Cleo Shield	2025

Convocation IX	The Rev. Jon Anderson	2025
	Mr. Robert Gunnell	2026

Appointment of Deans

Bishop Haynes introduced the Convocation Deans:

Convocation I	The Very Rev. Robert Coniglio
Convocation II	The Very Rev. Andrew Buchanan
Convocation III	The Very Rev. Stewart Tabb
Convocation IV	The Very Rev. Keith Emerson
Convocation V	The Very Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Convocation VI	The Very Rev. Eve Butler-Gee
Convocation VII	The Very Rev. Jeunée Godsey
Convocation VIII	The Very Rev. Nancy Meck
Convocation IX	The Very Rev. Susan Grimm

Introduction of Clergy New to the Diocese

Bishop Haynes introduced and welcomed the following clergy new to the Diocese:

The Rev. Diane Hill
The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet
The Rev. James Nickols
The Rev. Deborah Rankin
The Rev. Lissie Rhoton
The Rev. Samuel Sheridan
The Rev. Ann Truitt
The Rev. Noah Van Niel
The Rev. Jean Vinson
The Rev. Mary Margaret Winn

Holy Eucharist with Bishop's Annual Report

Address to Council by the Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

Can you imagine a world without challenges? Can you imagine living your life without having to face obstacles? Well of course, such a world doesn't exist. We have known challenges and obstacles abundantly. Now as we emerge from the pandemic to contemplate a season of revival in our church, we face several challenges. Today I would like to talk about three of those challenges – three challenges that unless we face them head on and come up with creative solutions, we will find ourselves missing the opportunity to cooperate fully with God in the revival of His church in Southern Virginia. Those three challenges are as follows: fatigue and discouragement, anxiety about resources, growing clergy shortage (actually an opportunity for change and growth).

Our first challenge – fatigue and discouragement. Throughout the diocese, I hear that people are tired, exhausted and burned out. The pandemic has exacted a huge toll on our emotional, spiritual, and physical resources. The World Health Organization states that

“pandemic fatigue” is a reality. Those who suffer this fatigue present as “demotivated” and exhausted with the demands of life during the Covid crisis. This demotivation can lead to outbursts of short temper and frustration, anger and irritability, sadness, depression, anxiety and fear, physical exhaustion and burnout, difficulty focusing, prioritizing, problem-solving and decision making, and lack of motivation. One manifestation of pandemic fatigue in the Church is that people are more reluctant to take on new responsibilities and leadership positions. Increasingly churches are reporting that it is hard to fill roles for Vestries, Wardens and Committee Chairs. Many are looking to their by-laws and canons to see if there are ways to reduce the number of vestry positions required to meet this challenge. Another manifestation is that more and more clergy are moving up the date at which they decide to retire. Exhausted and burned out, many are moving into retirement sooner than they might have originally anticipated prior to the pandemic. We are tired, and we cannot pretend that we are not. Our challenge is to find ways to address our fatigue and discouragement.

Our second challenge – when we are tired and discouraged, we tend to become anxious. In the church, we are anxious about two things – people and money. We are anxious because attendance numbers are not what they were prior to the pandemic. Even churches that are growing are expressing anxiety about the people who have not returned. It is normal to miss and be anxious about those who have not returned; but this anxiety prevents us from celebrating the people who ARE coming, who ARE sitting in the pews and who ARE fully engaged in life in the Church after pandemic. We are also anxious about money. While some parishes have experienced a post-pandemic decline in income, the majority have fared well thanks to the stewardship of very faithful members. Still, we are worried that this won’t last, that we will be forced to close our doors. Our anxiety paralyzes us and prevents us from seeing the many ways God continues to provide for us. In many parishes I have visited over the last couple of months, I have heard this anxiety about money in the same breath as I have heard expressions of gratitude and amazement that stewardship campaigns have gone well. So we are anxious, and we are anxious even when things are going well. We can’t have it both ways. We can’t lament the lack of resources even as we are celebrating evidence of new growth. Our second challenge then is to find a way to reduce our anxiety about what is a perception of lack of resources but maybe not always a reality. Is God God, or is He not? Is He going to provide for us or abandon us?

The third challenge is not actually a challenge but an opportunity. An opportunity for change and growth. When parishes find themselves vacant of a priest, or when priests decide to seek another call, everyone shifts into transition. In days past, it used to be that for every open parish seeking a priest, there were multiple priests expressing an interest. Today that transition landscape has changed. Today, for every six parishes seeking a priest, there is only one priest seeking a new call. The number of clergy willing and available to relocate has dwindled, and churches face long search processes with fewer candidates to interview. Some of this increasingly barren landscape is demographically driven. I mentioned earlier that more and more clergy are deciding to retire early. An additional reality is that baby-boomers are reaching retirement age, so there is a greater segment of the population in general that is ready to retire, clergy included. Canons Roy Hoffman, James Harlan, and Willis Foster, our transition team, will tell you that of those clergy who are willing to relocate, two-thirds of them have geographic restrictions on their ability to relocate, with the primary reason for the restriction being that they want and need to be close to family. So, the challenge is that for more and more open congregations in search of a priest, fewer priests are available to fill those vacancies. We face a

clergy shortage. But do not despair. This challenge affords us an opportunity to become creative in ways that will excite you I hope as much as they excite me. More about that later!

Challenges are opportunities. Instead of seeing insurmountable obstacles, let's look to see if God might be pointing a way for us to do something new and life-giving. Let's see if there's a remedy for our fatigue and discouragement that would revive us. Let's see if we can focus more intently on the presence of Jesus to dispel our anxiety about our perceived lack of people and money.

So how shall we tackle these challenges? Well first, before we do that, we should spend some time with Scripture; because any strategy for confronting challenge should be grounded in Scripture. The prophet Isaiah we heard proclaimed this morning commands us to "remove the yoke from among [us]." And he defines the yoke as "the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil." Instead of pointing fingers and speaking evil, he exhorts us to "offer [your] food to the hungry and to satisfy the needs of the afflicted." So instead of gossip, division, and fractiousness, we should look around to see who is hungry, who is afflicted and then offer from our resources to those folks. Isaiah goes on to counsel that we should honor the Sabbath, not go our own ways, not serve our own interests, and not pursue our own affairs. If we do those things, Isaiah proclaims...if we remove the yoke of self-seeking, here is what will happen:



- Light will rise in the darkness and gloom will be like the noon-day.
- The Lord will guide us constantly.
- The Lord will satisfy our needs.
- Our bones will be strong (and we can stand and walk confidently).
- Water will never stop flowing into our gardens.
- Ruins will be rebuilt to last for generations.
- Our name will be "repairers of the breach, restorer of streets to live in."
- God will feed us with the heritage of Jacob (eternal salvation and blessings).

So, if we do these things – if we abandon the fractious divisions among us and seek to care for those in need, if we honor the Sabbath and abandon our self-seeking ways, then our darkness will cease and we will become God's children. As we face challenges in the church, the promise that God will bless us as His children is one tool we can put in our toolkit.

We can all agree that the world would be a better place if each of us would abandon our self-seeking ways. But this is more easily said than done. For those of us who like to be in control, not having things go our way is difficult and most of us will do whatever we can to control the outcome of things. We are a sick people that does not have our act together. But the good news is that God is not interested in hanging out with those who have their act together. The good news is that God has come into our world to be with those who are a mess, with those who are in need of restoration. Those people who are a mess and who need restoration are the ones that God calls to be His church. In the Gospel lesson from Luke, Jesus calls Levi to follow Him. Levi is a tax-collector, not a popular guy, and maybe not even happy with his work. Jesus the Rabbi calls him to follow. It is an honor to be called to follow a Rabbi and Levi abandons his prosperous work to do so. Later he invites Jesus to his home to socialize with his low-life tax collector and sinner friends. When the Scribes and the Pharisees criticize Jesus, Jesus answers

that He did not come to hang out with people who are well. Instead he intends to hang out with the sick – to surround Himself with people who need His grace and healing. That’s us. We don’t have our act together. We need Jesus to sit at our table with us. And when He does, He can impart the grace to us that we need to abandon our self-seeking ways and begin to reach out to others. Another tool for the toolkit – the presence of Jesus and His healing grace.

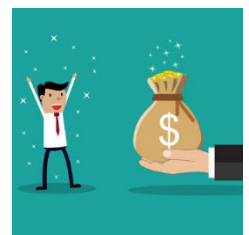
And now, back to our three challenges: 1. Fatigue and Discouragement, 2. Anxiety about Resources, 3. Clergy Shortage.

1. Fatigue and Discouragement

When we are exhausted and discouraged, we become frustrated. When we are frustrated, we look for someone or something to blame. We blame the pandemic, we blame the government, we blame our brothers and sisters. We point fingers. We let evil divide us. How shall we remove this yoke of pointing of fingers and speaking evil from among us? How shall we address our fatigue and discouragement? The answer lies firmly in our Baptismal Covenant and most specifically in the first Baptismal Promise: Will you continue in the apostle’s teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? The answer to our fatigue and discouragement lies in keeping Christian community, receiving the nourishment of the Body and Blood of Jesus, and continuing through prayer in intimate relationship with God. The first of our five initiatives as a diocese promotes a Rule of Life. A Rule of Life is a set of disciplines in which Christians engage in order to support and grow their relationship in God through Jesus Christ. Each Christian should have a Rule of Life. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus pointed the way to a Rule of Life: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind.” Heart, soul, strength and mind. A Rule of Life should contain disciplines that support one’s heart in Christ, one’s soul in Christ, one’s physical strength in Christ, and one’s mind in Christ. This year, many parishes are focusing on Rule of Life development as a Lenten discipline. The diocese is planning to offer further instruction as well. I would encourage and exhort each of you to think of your own Rule of Life – what can you do to more firmly support your relationship to Jesus? Lent is a good time to begin. Psychologists and sociologists have conducted studies that support the idea that good habits take about six weeks to establish. Coincidentally Lent is about six weeks long. What better time to start developing your own Rule of Life? Here is the chance to have the yoke of fatigue and discouragement removed from among us. Here is a chance to begin to receive the life that Isaiah promised.

2. Anxiety about Resources

We are concerned about numbers – numbers of people and numbers of dollars. Much to our dismay, when we resumed public worship, not everyone came back to church. Many stayed away because of health concerns. Many had moved on to other habits that occupied their Sunday mornings. Our churches were not as full as they used to be. We are anxious about that. Unfortunately our anxiety about numbers has prevented us from seeing the beauty of the folks who ARE coming to church. The ones who ARE coming to church are excited and engaged. They WANT to be there. They WANT to be the Church. They WANT to make a difference. I have been several places in the diocese confirming and baptizing people whose first experience of Church was during the pandemic – very often on virtual services. And now they are here, in person, wanting to follow Jesus. But instead of celebrating those who come, we have paralyzed ourselves by lamenting those who have not come. While it is perhaps an uncomfortable idea to hear, some



of you have heard me speak of the pandemic as a “holy pruning” for churches. Our numbers have been cut away and are not returning, just as dead wood is cut from a tree and cannot be regrafted. Why is dead wood cut away? So that the branch can bear fruit. We have people who are sitting in our pews now who want to bear fruit. This is not to disparage people who have not returned, or to insinuate that any person is a piece of dead wood – all are God’s children and I’m sure He has plans for all. But I am suggesting this idea so that we will understand that instead of looking longingly at the past, God needs us to celebrate the people He is gathering into His church today and to move forward into the future with THEM. Jesus worked with a small core group of 12 disciples...and the Church emerged from them for all generations. That church has not always looked the same, but it has always been the Church.

Recently the Office of Public Affairs of the Episcopal Church released its 2021 Parochial Report data. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said this about declining numbers: “I empathize with the feelings of concern many may feel after reading this data, and yet it is important to remember that the institutional church as we know it has not been the form that Christianity has always taken....the essence and core of the church is not its outward form, which will always change over time. The essence and core is Jesus Christ – his Spirit, his teachings, his manner of life, his way of love – and the movement he founded cannot be stopped.... We need our church leaders, both ordained and lay, to embrace this moment of reinvention, and the folks I see rising up are going to bring us into a profoundly different age.”

We are also anxious about money. While many churches report that their stewardship giving did not suffer during the pandemic (due to the continued giving of faithful members), some churches did lose income and all churches seem to be anxious about whether giving will continue. We are gripped by fear about money. That kind of fear is a spiritual malady. I have attended Vestry meetings recently where I have heard the sentiment that people base their pledges on what they “get” out of the church. If the church meets their needs as they expect, they give their dollars. If the church fails to meet their needs as they expect, then they withhold their dollars. This idea extends to giving to the diocese as well – if the diocese meets their perceived needs, they fulfill their pledge. If it doesn’t they withhold. This kind of “quid pro quo” mentality is a spiritual malady. Scripture exhorts us to give as a spiritual discipline, to give out of gratitude, and not to withhold our first fruits from God. We as Christians don’t give so that we can get, we give because God has given and we are grateful.

As a diocese we have some work to do around formation and instruction about stewardship. The Diocese commits to offering that formation in the coming year. Additionally, in keeping with one of our five initiatives around stewardship of resources, I would like to report to you on a couple of things the diocese has done to shore up our own efforts to properly manage resources. In July the diocese moved its offices to another location. Because the focus of our work takes place away from the diocese in the various convocations and at specific churches seeking our help, we found that we were spending less and less time in the physical space that we had previously occupied. Additionally the pandemic taught us that not all of us need to be in the office at the same time with each person inhabiting a particular space. As we noticed these things, we realized that we didn’t need so much space, and we didn’t need to spend the money we were spending on the large space that we were not using. Therefore, we relocated. That relocation saves the diocese \$100,000 a year in rent. Continuing our real estate stewardship, we began to look at other real estate owned by the diocese and to question if that real estate was being used for the growth and advancement of the church or whether it might be better stewarded by being sold with the assets going into funds that would promote new church growth. You can

hear more about how this work has benefitted the financial status of the diocese when Judy Dobson, our Director of Finance and Administration, and John Fogarty, our Diocesan Treasurer, give their report later.

While we want to be cautious at the Diocesan office about money and finances, we are optimistic. I am grateful to Judy Dobson and John Fogarty for their oversight. I am further grateful to Canon Roy Hoffman and Mr. John Rector, of St. Paul's, Suffolk, for their oversight of the real estate team. But I would be remiss if I didn't express my gratitude to all of you and your churches for your faithful payment of your asking to the Diocesan office. We see that many of you are striving to reach the 10% mark and that a few have even gone beyond that. Thank you for your gifts. The prophet Isaiah promises that God will supply our needs. As we strive to be faithful, we hold that promise close to our hearts.

3. Clergy Shortage – An Opportunity for Growth and Change

While I made a dire pronouncement earlier about clergy being in short supply, we do not despair. The good news is that Southern Virginia remains a diocese that is attractive to clergy seeking relocation. Every week, priests contact us, hoping to move into our diocese should we have an opening that matches their gifts. Additionally, our transition team actively recruits clergy – telephoning seminaries, attending transitions conferences, even making cold telephone calls to clergy who might not necessarily be seeking a change. But recruiting clergy is only half of the solution about how to address leadership in the church. The other half, and in fact the half about which I am particularly excited, is finding ways to empower competent lay leadership to lead the church in the absence of consistent priestly presence. I am not seeking to eliminate priests. The church is comprised of four orders of ministry – bishop, priest, deacon, and layperson. All are necessary for the church to function. Across the diocese I have become aware of the number of parishes we have who either cannot afford or cannot attract consistent priestly presence. This is particularly true for historically black congregations. Instead of shutting their doors, lay people are stepping up to lead. Increasingly lay people are requesting licenses from the diocesan office to lead worship, preach, administer Sacrament to the homebound, and teach catechetical formation. No one is suggesting that the priestly role is restricted to Sacramental function only and that lay people can do all the rest. As I said earlier, the Church requires all orders of ministry to thrive. But I do believe this trend reflects a growing desire on the part of the laity to be engaged, to support the clergy in their roles and to continue to be the Church in every corner of our diocese. This is exciting!

This is exciting because this means that churches in our diocese want to find ways to be the Church no matter what their circumstances. Churches want to be equipped for vital ministry in every corner of our diocese regardless of their size or number of resources. We in Southern Virginia WANT to be the Church. To support that desire, the diocese is doing two things. The first, which we featured in an evening presentation this week, is our Diocesan Congregational Development Institute. We launched this program last year with several congregations participating. During four gatherings over the course of the year we assembled to receive instruction in organizational development and spiritual formation designed to empower teams of people to effect change in their own congregations. Those who participated are enthusiastic about what they are learning will empower their parishes. This year we are welcoming more congregations to begin this work. We will be gathering for the first time this year in April, and it is not too late to sign up and bring a team from your congregation. Please contact the Diocesan office to enroll your congregation.



The second initiative is even more exciting. Later this afternoon, we will hear from our Council speaker, Canon Lydia Bucklin, Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Northern Michigan, who will talk to us about a model for ministry that we are calling “Rooted Ministry: Equipping Parishes for Vital Ministry.” I’m not going to steal Canon Bucklin’s thunder by explaining what “Rooted Ministry” is but just to give you some context about why we are so excited about what she has to say, let me tell you a little about her diocese. It’s a small diocese – between 25 and 30 congregations. No church has a full-time priest. Three full-time seminary trained missionaries and two part-time locally formed missionaries oversee 16 congregations. Two un-ordained missionaries assist. The model that Canon Bucklin will explain to us is an extraordinary partnership

among all the orders of ministry – bishop, priest, deacon, lay – a partnership which will revitalize any congregation seeking to be a more empowered church. This includes congregations without consistent priestly presence as well as congregations that have multi-priest staffs. Rooted ministry is grounded in our Baptismal Covenant and promises to ground us in solid ways to be the Church, no matter what!

At Annual Council last year, I spoke of the image of crocuses blooming through the snow...those inspiring images of light and hope in darkness. I can tell you that as I visit various places in this beautiful diocese, I have seen these crocuses. I have seen the creative ways you are responding to the call of Jesus. Yes, we have challenges, but you are rising to meet them. I see light rising in the darkness. I sense the Lord guiding us constantly. He is satisfying our needs. He is making our bones strong. We CAN stand and walk confidently. Amen.



A break followed Holy Eucharist.

Report of Committee on Nominations

The Bishop invited nominations from the floor and there were none. A motion was made to close the nominations; the motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to accept the nominations as posted; that motion was seconded and passed.

Tellers the Rev. Gini DiStanislao and Mr. Ron Rinaldi of Echo 360 led the Convention through the process of electronic voting.

Elections

Ms. Michele McCoy was elected as Lay Member of the Standing Committee.

The Rev. Susan Grimm was elected as Clergy Member of the Standing Committee.

Ms. Vania Blaiklock was elected as Lay Member of the Disciplinary Board.

The Rev. Liam Muller and the Rev. Dana Van-Vliet Pullin were elected as Clergy Members of the Disciplinary Board.

No Layperson was elected to the Provincial Synod as there were no nominees.

The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, the Rev. Charlie Bauer, the Rev. Jan Brown, and the Rev. Ashley Urquidi were elected as Clergy Members of the General Convention Deputation. The Chair of the Deputation will be the Rev. Charlie Bauer.

Ms. Helen Sharpe-Williams, Dr. Faye Felton, Ms. Pam Pringle, and Ms. Madeline Hanlon were elected to serve as Lay Members of the General Convention Deputation.

Vote on Constitutional Resolutions

On behalf of the Committee on Constitution and Canons, Chancellor Anne Bibeau moved Constitutional Resolution 1 on its second reading. Since the motion was made on behalf of the Committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously.

2023 CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION CON-1

Second Reading

Submitted by The Executive Board and the Committee on Constitution and Canons

RESOLVED, That the 131st Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia amend Article V of the Constitution to read in the form and language as herein proposed:

ARTICLE V: QUORUM

1. Except as provided in Section 2 of this Article regarding the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, one half of the total number of Clergy entitled to membership in Council and residing within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese and not listed as retired with the Church Pension Fund and Lay Delegates from at least one half of the total number of Parishes and Organized Missions shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn to a specific date.

2. For an election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, two-thirds of the Clergy entitled to membership in the Council or a special Council and residing within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese and not listed as retired with the Church Pension Fund, and Lay Delegates from at least two-thirds of the total number of Parishes and Organized Missions, shall constitute a quorum for the election, but a smaller number may adjourn to a specific date.

3. In the determination of a quorum each Parish and each Mission shall be considered as a single unit regardless of the number of worship locations located within each Parish or Mission.

RATIONALE:

The Constitutional resolutions for Articles V and VII seek to change what constitutes a quorum for a Bishop's election, directed primarily at achieving a clergy quorum.

Presently, Article V states that ½ of **active** clergy constitute a quorum at Annual or any special Council. But, Article VII states that 2/3 of **all (active and retired)** clergy is required for a quorum at a council for election of a Bishop.

At the most recent Bishop election at Dinwiddie in September 2019, while the Diocese easily achieved a quorum (2/3) of lay delegates from parishes and organized missions, because of the increasing number of retired clergy, we were unable to obtain a quorum of 2/3 of **all (active and retired) clergy**. When a Bishop election quorum does not exist, then any election requires a 2/3 majority (super majority) of each Order, lay and clergy. This is exactly what occurred at Dinwiddie in September 2019. In the future, with an increasing number of clergy retirements, the super majority requirement could result in an increasing number of ballots and perhaps days for a Bishop election.

The proposed changes focus on determining a quorum based only upon the **active** clergy in the Diocese, a quorum requirement of 2/3 of active clergy in the Diocese. The lay delegate quorum requirement for a Bishop election remains at two-thirds.

The proposed amendments to Articles V and VII do not make an Episcopal election easier. But they do allow voting to follow what most dioceses now have for an Episcopal election; once a quorum is established, an election based upon a concurrent majority in each order. The proposed changes do not in any way disenfranchise any clergy who desire to participate in an Episcopal election.

The amendments recognize that people now live differently and longer than 50-80 years ago. The changes are directed at the ability to hold an orderly Episcopal election. They will not necessarily avoid the supermajority requirement, but will help. Under any circumstance, we have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide the election.

On behalf of the Committee on Constitution and Canons, Chancellor Anne Bibeau moved Constitutional Resolution 2 on its second reading. Since the motion was made on behalf of the Committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously.

2023 CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION CON-2

Second Reading

Submitted by The Executive Board and the Committee on Constitution and Canons

RESOLVED, That the 131st Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia amend Article VII of the Constitution to read in the form and language as herein proposed:

ARTICLE VII: ELECTION OF BISHOPS

1. The election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop shall be at a regular annual meeting of the Council or at a special Council called for this purpose.

2. The vote shall be by ballot and Orders, a concurrent majority of the Orders being necessary for election, provided that a quorum for an election of a Bishop as specified in Article V, section 2, of this Constitution, is present; otherwise, two-thirds of the votes of each Order present shall be necessary for election.

RATIONALE:

The Constitutional resolutions for Articles V and VII seek to change what constitutes a quorum for a Bishop's election, directed primarily at achieving a clergy quorum.

Presently, Article V states that ½ of **active** clergy constitute a quorum at Annual or any special Council. But, Article VII states that 2/3 of **all (active and retired)** clergy is required for a quorum at a council for election of a Bishop.

At the most recent Bishop election at Dinwiddie in September 2019, while the Diocese easily achieved a quorum (2/3) of lay delegates from parishes and organized missions, because of the increasing number of retired clergy, we were unable to obtain a quorum of 2/3 of **all (active and retired) clergy**. When a Bishop election quorum does not exist, then any election requires a 2/3 majority (super majority) of each Order, lay and clergy. This is exactly what occurred at Dinwiddie in September 2019. In the future, with an increasing number of clergy retirements, the super majority requirement could result in an increasing number of ballots and perhaps days for a Bishop election.

The proposed changes focus on determining a quorum based only upon the **active** clergy in the Diocese, a quorum requirement of 2/3 of active clergy in the Diocese. The lay delegate quorum requirement for a Bishop election remains at two-thirds.

The proposed amendments to Articles V and VII do not make an Episcopal election easier. But they do allow voting to follow what most dioceses now have for an Episcopal election; once a quorum is established, an election based upon a concurrent majority in each order. The proposed changes do not in any way disenfranchise any clergy who desire to participate in an Episcopal election.

The amendments recognize that people now live differently and longer than 50-80 years ago. The changes are directed at the ability to hold an orderly Episcopal election. They will not necessarily avoid the supermajority requirement, but will help. Under any circumstance, we have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide the election.

On behalf of the Resolutions and Memorials Committee, The Rev. Keith Emerson presented R-1, noting it proper as to substance and form. Since it was presented by the Committee, no second was required. This Resolution noted the Rev. Joe Green's contributions to our Diocese and Church, and asked the General Convention to recognize the same. The Motion passed unanimously.

R-1 Memorial Resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church

Resolved: The following Memorial be submitted to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

To the Deputies and Bishops of The Episcopal Church assembled at the 81st General Convention:

The Honorable Reverend Doctor Canon Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr. was born in Jenkinsville, SC on April 15, 1926. He graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC in 1949 and along with nine other classmates enrolled at Philadelphia Divinity School, thereby integrating the institution. Graduating with a Master in Divinity degree in 1952, Joe was ordained to the diaconate in 1953 and to the priesthood in 1954.

After serving several congregations in the Carolinas as well as Chaplain at St. Augustine's, Joe accepted a call to serve as Rector of Grace Church in Norfolk, VA in 1963, a position he held until his retirement in 1993. Throughout his ministry, Joe was a faithful pastor and advocate for equality and civil rights.

Joe served the wider church as a deputy to General Convention from 1969-1983, as the President of the Union of Black Episcopalians from 1975-1977, and as a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Augustine's.

Joe was appointed to the School Board of the City of Norfolk in 1974 and then to the City Council in 1977, the first person of color to hold such a position since Reconstruction. Serving twenty years on the Council, ten as Vice Mayor, he was a champion for fair and affordable housing, access to education, and improved public transportation. He also led the drive to restore the historic Attucks Theater (known as "The Apollo Theater of the South") when it was slated for demolition.

In 2021, The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, designated Joe as Canon Theologian of our diocese, honoring "his lifelong voice for justice and inclusion... helping all of us to see more clearly the Way of Love." The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church has stated Joe was a colleague, friend, and mentor who helped to form him as a priest, bishop, and presiding bishop.

A recipient of numerous awards and degrees, Joe's advocacy for racial justice and reconciliation in the Episcopal Church will be felt for years to come. His work on behalf of the people of Norfolk has left an enduring legacy.

After a lifetime of faithful witness and service, including sixty-nine years in the ordained ministry, our Lord called Joe to his heavenly home on January 14, 2023. In honor of his remarkable life, we invite the members of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church to give thanks to God for The Honorable Reverend Doctor Canon Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

The Clergy and Delegates of the 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Introduction of Postulants & Candidates

Bishop Haynes introduced the following Postulants and Candidates:

Ms. Talley Banazek – Redeemer, Midlothian
Ms. Robin Brown – St. Andrew's, Norfolk
Ms. Allison Johnson – Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
Ms. Marie Kirk-Clunan – Galilee, Virginia Beach
Ms. Allison Pace – Redeemer, Midlothian
Mr. Daniel Toven – Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk
Ms. Rebecca Troutman – Emmanuel, Virginia Beach
Ms. Anne Zobel – All Saints', Virginia Beach

Memorial Resolutions (Vote)

Members of the Resolutions and Memorials Committee presented the following Memorial Resolutions.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Roger Manuel Robillard

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Roger Manuel Robillard to his heavenly home on March 5, 2022; and,
- WHEREAS,** Roger was born on March 20, 1942 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, one of four children born to Raymond and Monique Robillard; and,
- WHEREAS,** he earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from McGill University School of Religious Studies in 1978 and Doctorate in Theology from Montreal Theological Seminary in 1979; and,
- WHEREAS,** Roger served as an ordained priest in the Anglican Church of Canada from 1979-1997 before being received by The Rt. Rev. Gerry Wolfe on November 1, 1997; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as rector of his hometown church from 1997-2001 prior to accepting a call to serve as Vicar of Trinity Church in Highland Springs, VA; and,
- WHEREAS,** Roger served as Priest-in-Charge at St. Barnabas Church in North Chesterfield from September 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was an avid reader, enjoyed singing, and traveled often to Canada; and,
- WHEREAS,** his favorite motto in life was known as “The 11th Beatitude” – Blessed are those who run around in circles, for they shall be known as big wheels; and,

WHEREAS, Roger was preceded in death by his parents, three siblings, and first wife, Lydia; and,

WHEREAS, He is survived by his beloved husband of five years, Harold E. Wainwright Jr; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including forty-three years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Roger Manuel Robillard; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his husband and many friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his husband, Harold.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Doctor Bruce Alan Gray

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Bruce Alan Gray to his heavenly home on March 17, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce was born in Troy, NY on May 17, 1940, the son of C. Wellington and Dorothy Gray; and,

WHEREAS, he married Katherine Ann Lowther on June 29, 1962, a union which produced two children; and,

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University in 1963; and,

WHEREAS, he answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Episcopal Divinity School, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1966; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 11, 1966 by The Rt. Rev. Allen Webster Brown prior to being ordained to the Priesthood on December 14 of that same year by The Rt. Rev. Charles Bowen Persell Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, he served in various parishes in the state of New York for the first twenty-three years of his ministry; and,

WHEREAS, while in New York Bruce was a devoted member of the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains and authored the book "A Fire Chaplain's Manual"; and,

WHEREAS, as a lifelong learner Bruce earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1984; and,

- WHEREAS,** moving to Virginia in 1987, he served parishes in Annandale, Fredericksburg, and Richmond, and in Maryland before accepting a call in 1997 to be the rector of Historic St. John's Church in Richmond, from which he retired in 2008; and,
- WHEREAS,** while in Richmond he continued to serve as a Fire Chaplain; and,
- WHEREAS,** in retirement he was of great service to our diocese serving at Christ Church in Amelia and St. Barnabas Church in Chesterfield County; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, brother Paul, and close friend Bill Eccles; and,
- WHEREAS,** on October 20, 2022, our Lord called Bruce's wife Katherine to her heavenly home; and,
- WHEREAS,** he is survived his children, Susan and Mark and their spouses, three grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and his brother Kenneth, along with other family members and friends; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-five years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Doctor Bruce Alan Gray; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his children.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend William Eugene Blottner

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call William Eugene Blottner to his heavenly home on April 16, 2022; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born in Richmond, VA on August 9, 1929, the son of Herman and Gwynn Blottner; and,
- WHEREAS,** he earned a degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1951; and,
- WHEREAS,** upon graduation he fulfilled his military obligation by working as a civil servant for the United States Navy, during which time he prepared surveys of Bermuda and Greenland; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bill answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1956; and,

WHEREAS, around this time a cousin introduced him to Nan Scott, who he would come to marry; and,

WHEREAS, Bill was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 1, 1956 by The Rt. Rev. Frederick D. Goodwin, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on July 13th of the following year; and,

WHEREAS, he served in numerous parishes in Virginia during his distinguished career, including Leeds Parish in Markham, St. Andrew's in Lawrenceville, and St. Michael's Church in Bon Air, prior to relocating to the Diocese of Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, as a lifelong learner he earned a Master's degree in Sociology from Cleveland State University in 1980 and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Graduate Theological Foundation in 1994; and,

WHEREAS, he worked in several social service agencies and taught at the college level; and,

WHEREAS, upon retirement he returned to his roots in Southern Virginia and served in various capacities at St. Anne's Church in Appomattox, Church of the Good Shepherd in McKenney, and Johns Memorial Church in Farmville; and,

WHEREAS, Bill founded the campus ministry programs at Longwood University and at Hampden-Sydney College while at the same time becoming an Education for Ministry (EfM) Mentor; and,

WHEREAS, he loved reading mysteries, partaking in deep intellectual discussions, and ice cream; and,

WHEREAS, Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and brother Frederick; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived his children Paul, Mary, and Mark, a son-in-law, two grandchildren, a great-grandson, and numerous other family members and friends; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty-five years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend William Eugene Blottner; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his children, Paul Blottner of Scranton, PA, Mary McCarthy of Middleburg Heights, OH, and Mark Blottner of Chicago, IL.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Ross Franklin Hawkins, Jr.

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Ross Franklin Hawkins, Jr. to his heavenly home on May 11, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, this native of Richmond, Virginia graduated from Virginia Tech in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science degree; and,

WHEREAS, Frank met and married Peggy Langston Burnett of Danville, VA in 1953; and,

WHEREAS, he served for two years as a First Lieutenant in the Army at the base in Frankfurt, Germany prior to serving stateside in the reserves for an additional eight years and being promoted to Captain; and,

WHEREAS, they and their two children spent most of their lives either in Richmond or the Hampton Roads area; and,

WHEREAS, Frank earned a Master's degree in Commerce from the University of Richmond and Doctor of Business Administration degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, he was a faithful and active member of St. Christopher's in Portsmouth, serving on the Vestry, as Senior Warden, Treasurer, Chair of the Endowment Committee, and as a Trustee of the parish; and,

WHEREAS, he was active in the community, serving as the Chairman of the Portsmouth School Board, Portsmouth Area United Fund, Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, Portsmouth Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Virginia College Fund, and on various bank boards; and,

WHEREAS, Frank was a devoted father and grandfather who made it possible for both of his children and all six of his grandchildren to attend college; and,

WHEREAS, he retired in 1985 as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the Eastern Region of Central Fidelity Bank after being with them for thirty years; and,

WHEREAS, upon retirement, Frank served for twelve years as Treasurer and Director of Finance & Administration of our diocese; and,

WHEREAS, Frank was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of sixty-five years, and his sister; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Debra Hawkins Woodyard of Suffolk, his son, Keith Brantley Hawkins and his wife Stephanie of Chesapeake, six grandchildren, and great-grandson and numerous other family members and friends; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia give thanks for the loving and faithful witness offered to the Glory of God by Ross Franklin Hawkins, Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to Frank's family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council, and that a copy be sent to his children, Debra and Keith.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Doctor Howard Hanchey

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Howard Hanchey to his heavenly home on May 17, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, he was born in Richmond, VA in 1941, the son of Daniel and Louise Hanchey; and,

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina in 1963; and,

WHEREAS, he married Anne Summers on August 17, 1963, a union which produced two children; and,

WHEREAS, Howard answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1967; and,

WHEREAS, he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary in 1967; and,

WHEREAS, Howard was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 10, 1967 by The Rt. Rev. Robert Fisher Goodwin Jr., who also ordained him to the Priesthood on July 10th of the following year; and,

WHEREAS, he served in several parish and clinical settings prior to accepting a call to be the Associate Rector at Eastern Shore Chapel in Virginia Beach, VA in 1972; and,

WHEREAS, Howard sensed a call to academia in 1978, a move which eventually led him to hold the seat of Arthur Lee Kinsolving Professor of Pastoral Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary from 1978 to 2001; and,

WHEREAS, he authored numerous books, papers, and articles over the course of his career, most aimed at making Christian education and evangelism understandable to the average priest and lay person; and,

WHEREAS, upon retirement Howard served as Interim Rector at several parishes, including Old Donation in Virginia Beach, and Trinity Church in Portsmouth and as Chaplain to the retired clergy of our diocese; and,

WHEREAS, he was an avid gardener who created stunning gardens everywhere he lived; and,

WHEREAS, he is remembered fondly by parishioners, colleagues, and students for his warm smile, affable demeanor, and gentle spirit; and,

WHEREAS, Howard was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Neal; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived his wife of fifty-eight years, children Stephanie and Cale, their spouses, six grandchildren, and numerous other family members and friends; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-four years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Doctor Howard Hanchey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his beloved wife, Anne.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Chaplain Richard Hedge Holley

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Richard Hedge Holley to his heavenly home on August 9, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, he was born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1936, the son of James and Constance Holley; and,

WHEREAS, he married Lois Holley on November 26, 1959, a union which produced three children; and,

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1961; and,

WHEREAS, Richard answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1964; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 20, 1964 by The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Powell and to the Priesthood on December 21st of that same year by The Rt. Rev. Frederick Warren Putnum; and,

WHEREAS, he served as a Chaplain in the United States Army from 1968 to 1994, rising to the level of Colonel; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Priest-in-Charge at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Portsmouth in 1995 prior to accepting a call to serve as Assistant to the Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Newport News, a position he held from 1997 through 2017; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived his wife Lois, his son, Christopher Holley of Bristow, VA, his daughter Ann Gregorek of Plano, TX, their spouses, and four grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-six years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Richard Hedge Holley; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his beloved wife, Lois.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Catherine Mae Bakely

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Catherine Mae Bakely to her heavenly home on August 11, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, she was born in Baltimore, MD on February 4, 1939, daughter of Herman and Ruth Boellner; and,

WHEREAS, she married Ronald Herbert Bakely on September 23, 1961; and,

WHEREAS, the couple owned a florist shop in New Jersey, managing it for many years before retiring and moving to the Eastern Shore; and,

WHEREAS, Cathy answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Diocesan School for Ministry, graduating in 2008; and,

WHEREAS, she was ordained to the Vocational Diaconate in the Episcopal Church on November 11, 2008 by The Rt. Rev. John Clark Buchanan; and,

WHEREAS, she faithfully exercised her ministry serving at Holy Trinity Church in Onancock, VA and Emmanuel Church in Jenkins Bridge, VA, working on church activities and tending to the spiritual needs of hospice patients and their families; and,

WHEREAS, she loved floral arranging, gardening, reading, going to the beach, and spending time with her family; and,

WHEREAS, after Ron's death in 2015 Cathy moved to Thorn Hill, TN to live with one of her children; and,

WHEREAS, Cathy is preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and her beloved husband of almost 60 years; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived by her three children, Jeff Bakely, Karen Sihr, and Chad Bakely, their spouses, seven grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirteen years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Catherine Mae Bakely; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to her children Jeff, Karen, and Chad.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Claire Morfit Hunkins

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Claire Morfit Hunkins to her heavenly home on August 15, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, she was born in New Brunswick, NJ on October 16, 1950, the daughter of Edwin and Margaret Morfit; and,

WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kentucky, graduating in 1973; and,

WHEREAS, she employed her degree in animal science through her work for Owens Corning Science Center in Newark, OH; and,

WHEREAS, in 1988 she became the proud mother of five children, ages 7 to 16, opening her heart and her home to them; and,

WHEREAS, Claire answered God's call to the ordained ministry by enrolling at Bexley Hall-Seabury Western Theological Seminary Federation, graduating with a Master in Divinity degree in 2006; and,

WHEREAS, she was ordained to the Diaconate in the Episcopal Church on May 14, 2005 by The Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson Jr. and to the Priesthood on June 24, 2006 by The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Lester Price; and,

WHEREAS, after serving as Priest-in-Charge of an Ohio congregation, Claire accepted a call to be the Vicar of Emmanuel Church in Jenkins Bridge, VA in 2008; and,

WHEREAS, she married Robert G. Beckwith Jr. on February 25, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, she enjoyed gardening, hiking, traveling, reading, and playing bridge; and,

WHEREAS, she is remembered for her warm heart and ever present smile; and,

WHEREAS, Claire was preceded in death by her husband; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived her children, Christina, Petra, Jessica, Eric, and Larry Velasquez, her brothers Paul, John, David, Jeff, and Eddie Morfit, nineteen grandchildren, twenty-eight great grandchildren, stepchildren Amelia and Brian Beckwith, and numerous other family members and friends; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixteen years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Claire Morfit Hunkins; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to her children Christina, Petra, Jessica, Eric, and Larry.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend James William Henry Sell

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call James William Henry Sell to his heavenly home on September 30, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Jim was born on October 1, 1942 in Charleston, West Virginia, one of two children born to James Nathaniel Sell and Helen DePue Sell; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from West Virginia University (go Mountaineers!) with a BA in history in 1964; and,

WHEREAS, Jim married the love of his life, Ellen D. Major, on August 31, 1968 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia in 1969 with a Master in Divinity; and

- WHEREAS,** he was ordained to the Diaconate in the Episcopal Church on June 11, 1969 and to the Priesthood on December 19 that same year, by The Rt. Rev. Wilburn Camrock Campbell; and,
- WHEREAS,** following ordination, he returned to the Diocese of West Virginia where he served two short tenures at St. Martin's, Summerville and Christ Memorial, Williamstown, respectively, before settling in at St. James, Lewisburg, from 1972-1980.
- WHEREAS,** during his time in Lewisburg, he built deep and lasting friendships while he led St. James to become a self-sustaining parish and he was called as Rector; and,
- WHEREAS,** from 1980-1990, Jim served five years as Rector of St. Mary's, Sparta in the Diocese of Newark, followed by five years as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Newark under the Episcopate of the legendary Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong.
- WHEREAS,** while serving in the Diocese of Newark, Jim's ministry overseeing communication resulted in a number of awards for excellence; and,
- WHEREAS,** while in Newark, Jim was runner up to the Rt. Rev. Frank Vest for Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1990 Jim was called to serve as Rector of Christ and St. Luke's, Norfolk, in the Diocese of Southern Virginia where he served; and,
- WHEREAS,** during his fifteen year rectorship, Christ and St. Luke's grew dramatically in numbers, programs, ministries, and a commitment to being a parish welcoming and affirming of all persons; and,
- WHEREAS,** these programs and ministries established under Jim's leadership included: the Great Wednesday weekly dinner and education series for all ages, a weekly feeding ministry to the homeless, the growth of children's ministries to include over a hundred children and youth and a full-time Director of Children's Ministries, the establishment of the Mission of the Holy Spirit to serve children and families at risk in economically challenged neighborhoods of Norfolk, The Homework Club which recruited parishioners to tutor children in these neighborhoods, participation in the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team programs of housing the homeless during the winter months, the "Nudging Group" for persons who wished to explore an inner "nudge" toward ordination – out of which emerged a number of ordained and lay ministers, an international ministry to Nicaragua which brought technology, tutoring, repairs, and dental care to a small, rural village in Nicaragua, support for the establishment of the Ghent Area Ministries which gathered a number of communities of faith to provide a coordinated approach to care for families and individuals in need, expansion of the music program to include a children's choral program; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jim spearheaded needed renovations to the buildings and organ of Christ and St. Luke's and established a columbarium in the garden of the church; and,

WHEREAS, Jim was a beloved friend, mentor, and inspiration to many younger or recently ordained clergy and seminarians in several parishes, some of whom were his associates; and,

WHEREAS, after retiring in 2005, Jim was called to use his vast experience in interim ministry, serving parishes in Maryland, New Jersey, and Connecticut prior to returning to Southern Virginia where he served as Interim Rector at Eastern Shore Chapel in Virginia Beach and Trinity, Portsmouth; and,

WHEREAS, he was the author of two books, *Learning to Live*, published in 2015, and *The Face in the Jar*, published in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Jim and Ellen were devoted to their children, James Andrew Sell and Kathryn “Katie” Sell Garcia, their spouses, five grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS, Jim was a joyful, gregarious, kind, and fun loving man who loved his family and friends, cared deeply for his congregations, clergy, and staff, enjoyed telling and hearing a good story because, as he would say, “A well told story is a universal story,” had a tender heart and a big, sunny personality, loved a good book and a good golf game and embraced this gift of life abundantly and extravagantly; and,

WHEREAS, at the end of his book, *Learning to Live*, Jim summed up his life in this way: “While I have hoped I would be blessed with a long, abundant and healthy life, I recognize that the proverbial tractor-trailer truck could blow me away at any moment. So every night, rather than pray the prayer of death I was taught as a child, I have called out to God and said, ‘Oh God, I love it!’” And so he did; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-three years in the ordained ministry, offered to God’s glory by The Reverend James William Henry Sell; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Ellen, children, Andrew and Katie, and his other family members and many friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his wife, Ellen.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

**The Honorable Reverend Doctor Canon
Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr.**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr. to his heavenly home on January 14, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, he was born in Jenkinsville, SC on April 15, 1926, the ninth of Joseph and Etta Green's eleven children; and,

WHEREAS, while managing the family farm, his parents made sure all their children received an education by attending a school at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in their community; and,

WHEREAS, during World War II he served in the Navy as a hospital corpsman; and,

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC in 1949; and,

WHEREAS, Joe answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Philadelphia Divinity School, one of ten graduates from St. Augustine's to do so thereby integrating the school from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1952; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on May 30, 1953 by The Rt. Rev. John J. Gravatt and ordained to the Priesthood on April 17, the following spring, by The Rt. Rev. Clarence Alfred Cole; and,

WHEREAS, he married Evelyn Grant on June 17, 1955; and,

WHEREAS, he served in several parishes in the Carolinas and as Chaplain at St. Augustine's College prior to coming to our diocese; and,

WHEREAS, in 1963 Joe accepted a call to serve as the Rector of Grace Church in Norfolk, VA; and,

WHEREAS, throughout his ministry he was a voice for equality and civil rights in the city of Norfolk and the surrounding region; and,

WHEREAS, he was a driving force behind the integration of our diocesan camping program; and,

WHEREAS, he served as a Deputy to General Convention of the Episcopal Church from 1969 through 1983, providing leadership and guidance as our church worked its way through questions of social justice, prayer book revision, and the ordination of women to the priesthood; and,

WHEREAS, he served as President of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) from 1975-1977; and,

- WHEREAS,** throughout his ministry Joe worked tirelessly on behalf of Black Colleges and Universities, especially Voorhees College, St. Paul's College, and his beloved St. Augustine's, serving on its Board of Trustees for over twenty-five years; and,
- WHEREAS,** The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, described Joe as a colleague, friend, and mentor who helped to form him as a priest, bishop, and Presiding Bishop; and,
- WHEREAS,** Joe was appointed to the City of Norfolk School Board in 1974 and then to City Council 1977; and
- WHEREAS,** he is remembered as being a shrewd and savvy politician who never flinched in the face of a challenge; and
- WHEREAS,** his compassion for people drove him to make life better for those he served; and,
- WHEREAS,** he advocated for fair housing, access to education, and public transformation, including the construction of light rail in the city; and
- WHEREAS,** he was instrumental in opening a downtown Norfolk campus of the Tidewater Community College in 1997, the Administration building today bearing his name; and
- WHEREAS,** he led the drive to restore the historic Attucks Theater (known as "The Apollo Theater of the South") when it was slated for demolition; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served on Norfolk City Council for twenty years, ten as Vice Mayor of the City; and,
- WHEREAS,** Joe received numerous awards in recognition for his ministry, service, and witness, including being named an honoree by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1984, receiving the *Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award* from Old Dominion University in 1990 and *The Dubose Award for Service* in 2009 from the University of the South's School of Theology, where his portrait now hangs in the Foyer; and,
- WHEREAS,** Joe earned a Master in Sacred Theology degree from the University of the South in 1965 (one of the first two Black students to do so), a Doctor of Letters degree from St. Augustine's College in 1976, a Doctor of Canon Law degree from St. Augustine's in 1985, a Doctor of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1988, a Doctor of Divinity degree from St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA in 1984, and a Doctor of Canon Law from the University of the South in 2010; and,
- WHEREAS,** Joe retired as Rector of Grace Church in 1993 after thirty years of service; and,

WHEREAS, in retirement he served from 1996-2000 as Interim Rector of St. James' Church in Portsmouth, VA and at St. Mark's Church in Suffolk, VA from 2004-2007 prior to joining the staff of Christ & St. Luke's Church in Norfolk; and,

WHEREAS, The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes designated Joe as Canon Theologian of the diocese in 2021, honoring "his lifelong voice for justice and inclusion... helping all of us to see more clearly the Way of Love"; and,

WHEREAS, he planted in the Episcopal Church, the city of Norfolk and all of Hampton Roads Virginia a zeal for racial justice, equality, and reconciliation which will be felt for years to come; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived his wife of sixty-seven years, Evelyn, his daughter, Angela Middleton, his son, Joseph N. Green III, two grandsons, one great-grandson, and numerous other family members; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty-nine years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Honorable Reverend Doctor Canon Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his beloved wife, Evelyn, to his children, and to the Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Isabel Fourquarean Steilberg

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Isabel Fourquarean Steilberg to her heavenly home on February 11, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, she was born on September 3, 1941 in South Boston, VA, the only child of Henry Jordon and Lightfoot Boyd Fourquarean; and,

WHEREAS, she married The Reverend Robert Hays Steilberg; a union which produced three children; and,

WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina in 1962 and a Master of Arts degree in English from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1981; and,

WHEREAS, Isabel answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled at the Virginia Theological Seminary, graduating with a Master in Divinity degree in 1992; and,

WHEREAS, she was ordained into the Diaconate in the Episcopal Church on June 7, 1992 by The Rt. Rev. Frank Harris Vest Jr. and was ordained into the Priesthood by Bishop Vest on December 19 of that same year; and,

WHEREAS, she faithfully exercised her ministry serving at St. Andrew's Church in Newport News, VA from 1992-1994, as Vicar of Christ the King Church in Yorktown, VA from 1994-1996, and as Rector of St. Paul's Church in Newport News from 1996-2013; and,

WHEREAS, she led St. Paul's Church to become a thriving and vibrant outreach center in an oppressed section of Newport News and labored to connect people from across the diocese with the needs of the people she served; and,

WHEREAS, she contributed to the life of our diocese by serving on the Executive Board, as President of the Standing Committee, as Chair of the Department of Outreach Ministries, and on the Mission and Ministry Foundation; and,

WHEREAS, she was a warm and supportive colleague, beloved and admired by all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, she served as Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the Virginia Interfaith Center and was named its Citizen Advocate of the Year in 2002; and,

WHEREAS, Isabel was preceded in death by her husband who passed away twenty-three years earlier; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived by her children, Robert Christopher Steilberg of Jacksonville, FL, Matthew Henry Steilberg and his wife Ann of Richmond, VA, Anne Boyd Mize and her husband Greg of Trussville, AL, and ten grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Isabel Fourqurean Steilberg; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to her children.

The Committee moved the above Resolutions as published; the Motion was seconded from the floor and passed. The Bishop asked for moment of silence.

Repairers of the Breach: Our Racial Healing Journey

The Rev. Lisa Green and Mr. Charles Farrar presented the report for the Repairers of the Breach.

Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Canon Lydia Bucklin of the Diocese of Northern Michigan offered her keynote address to the Council. The address is available on the Diocesan YouTube Channel.

Following the Keynote presentation, there was a Break.

Financial Review and Budget

John Fogarty, Judy Dobson and Jon Anderson, chair of Program Budget & Review, presented the 2023 budget. The focus was on the Bishop's Five Initiatives.

Jon Anderson thanked the Program Budget & Review Committee and especially Judy and Jon for all their work. The Rev. Jon Anderson moved the approval of the 2023 budget. There was a second from the floor. The Budget was approved via voice vote from the floor.

Introduction of Diocesan Staff

The Bishop introduced the Diocesan Staff.

Closing Worship

Closing Worship concluded the Diocesan Council Meeting.

Council Adjourns

The Council adjourned following Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

(the Rev.) Susan Grimm
Diocesan Secretary