

**Minutes of the
132nd Annual Council
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
February 9-10, 2024**

Plenary Business Session
Saturday, February 10, 2024
DoubleTree in Williamsburg, VA

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

The Report of the Committee on Credentials and Certification of Quorum

The Rev. Charlie Bauer thanked the members of the Committee. He certified that a quorum of clergy and lay delegates are present. We have a quorum in both orders, with 74 clergy and 80 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.

Adoption of Rules of Order of Council

The Bishop entertained a motion from the floor 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 132nd 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 9.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 9.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 and 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, Chair
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

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ms. Anne Bibeau, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

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

HEAD TELLERS

The Rev. Gini DiStanislao, Manakin, Powhatan
Ms. Jessica Mancini, 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 & Parliamentary
 - b. Order of Business
 - c. Approval of Minutes of the 131st 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. Report of Committee on Nominations
 12. Elections
 13. Vote on Constitutional Resolution
- Break
14. Holy Eucharist with Bishop's Annual Report
 15. Lunch – 12:15-1:30 p.m.
 16. Council Reconvenes – 1:30 p.m.
 17. Introduction of Postulants & Candidates
 18. Mission of the Holy Spirit Presentation
 19. Memorial Resolutions

20. Video – Land Acknowledgement Group
21. Keynote Speaker
- Break
22. Agricultural Workers Advocacy Coalition (AWAC) Presentation
23. Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI) Presentation
24. Deacons Formation Collaborative Presentation
25. Chanco on the James Presentation
26. 2024 Budget
27. Introduction of Diocesan Staff
28. Closing Worship
29. Council Adjourns

c. Approval of Minutes of the 131st Annual Council

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

CHANCELLOR (Article XIII)

Ms. Anne Bibeau, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

VICE CHANCELLOR (Article XIII)

Mr. Drew DiStanislao, Manakin, Powhatan

HISTORIOGRAPHER (Article XIV)

Vacant

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (Canon XII)

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

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

The Rev. Jan Brown, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

Ms. Isabel Burch, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

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

Ms. Caryl Felty, All Saints, Virginia Beach

The Rev. Timothy Fulop, St. Paul's, Norfolk

The Rev. Grace Rigby, Redeemer, Midlothian

The Rev. Philip Shearin

The Rev. Ashley Urquidi, All Saints, Virginia Beach

COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF PARISHES AND MISSIONS (Canon XIII)

Mr. James Clements, Martin's Brandon, Disputanta

Ms. Kathy Clements, Martin's Brandon, Disputanta

Mr. Raymond Gallagher, Christ Church, Amelia

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

Ms. Lucy Jones Rothnie, Hickory Neck, Toano

COMMISSION ON CHURCH INDEBTEDNESS (Canon XXVII)

Mr. John Fogarty, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

COMMISSION ON CHURCH ARCHITECTURE (Canon XXVIII)

Mr. Scott Spence, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg (Chair)

CHURCH PENSION COMMISSION (Canon XXIV)

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

Mr. Edwin Kellam, Good Shepherd, Norfolk

Mr. John Fogarty, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

e. Granting of Seat & Voice

**PAROCHIAL CLERGY & RETIRED CLERGY
(NON-CANONICALLY RESIDENT)**

The Rev. Shawn Malarkey, PGH

The Rev. Gavin McAdam, DAL

The Rev. Alan Mead, CP

The Rev. Terry Miller, VA

The Rev. David Perkins, GA

The Rev. Churchill Pinder, CP

The Rev. Deborah Rankin, WVA

The Rev. Chip Russell, IND

The Rev. Mary Thorpe, 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. Anne Zobel – All Saints', Virginia Beach

YOUTH & COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Abby Cheney – EYC Board, Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk

Grae Fentress – EYC Board, St. Paul's, Norfolk

Allyssa Gardner – EYC Board, Emmanuel, Virginia Beach

Andrew Hawthorn – EYC Board, St. Thomas, Chesapeake

Myra Jacques – EYC Board, St. Thomas, Chesapeake

Simirah Perks – EYC Board, St. Andrew's, Newport News

John Purdue – EYC Board, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

Dietrich Walker - EYC Board, Good Shepherd, McKenney

Ryan Brown – EYC Chaperone, All Saints', Virginia Beach

Cornelia Taylor – EYC Chaperone, St. Cyprian's, Hampton

Drew Cox – College Representative, Old Dominion University

Sean Morris – College Representative, Old Dominion University

OTHER

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek, Keynote Speaker
The Rev. James Nickols, ELCA, Hickory Neck, Toano
The Rev. Jenny Spivey, Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay
Ms. Patricia Mead, Chaplain to the Retired
Ms. Jessica Mancini, Echo 360
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
Mr. Gareth Kalfas, Missioner for Camp & Retreat Ministries
Ms. Hope Leach, Finance Officer
Ms. Liz Martin, Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary
Ms. Patsy Martin, Director of Communications
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 is one Constitution Resolution to be considered. The Rev. Keith Emerson reported that there were 8 memorial resolutions, and the Committee moves their adoption.

Recognition of Visitors

Bishop Haynes welcomed:
the Rev. Mary Ann Glover, General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches
the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, Bishop, Virginia Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)
the Rev. Jenny Spivey of Westminster-Canterbury

Announcement of Executive Board Elections

The Bishop presented the new members of the Executive Board:

The Rev. Ed Hunt, Convocation 1
The Rev. Melody Perdue, Convocation 2
Mr. John Rowe, Convocation 4

The Bishop thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Board:

The Rev. Janet Wheelock, Convocation 1
The Rev. Ashley Urquidi, Convocation 2
Ms. Faye Felton, Convocation 4
The Rev. Mark Riley, Convocation 5

The Rev. Brenda Overfield, Convocation 7

Appointment of Deans

The Deans were presented and asked to stand.

Convocation 1 – The Very Rev. Bob Coniglio
Convocation 2 – The Very Rev. Andy Buchanan
Convocation 3 – The Very Rev. Stewart Tabb
Convocation 4 – The Very Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson
Convocation 5 – The Very Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Convocation 6 – The Very Rev. Sam Sheridan
Convocation 7 – The Very Rev. Dr. Jeunee Godsey
Convocation 8 – The Very Rev. Nancy Meck
Convocation 9 – The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Grimm

Introduction of Clergy New to the Diocese

The Bishop presented the clergy new to the Diocese and asked them to come forward to the dais:

The Rev. Charles Cowen	St. Andrew's, Norfolk	Delaware
The Rev. Jared Grant	Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk	Western NC
The Rev. Shawn Malarkey	Eastern Shore Chapel, VB	Pittsburgh
The Rev. Gavin McAdam	St. John's, Halifax	Dallas
The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk & Chaplain ODU Canterbury	Washington DC
The Rev. Joshua Nelson	St. Martin's, Williamsburg	Southern Ohio
The Rev. David Perkins	Emmanuel, Glenmore & St. Anne's, Appomattox	Georgia
The Rev. Mollie Roberts	Redeemer, Midlothian	East Carolina
The Rev. Nanette Woodworth	Grace, Yorktown	East Carolina

Report of Committee on Nominations

The Bishop opened nominations from the floor, and there being none, a motion to close the nominations was moved and seconded. The motion to close nominations passed on a voice vote.

A motion was then made to accept the nominations as published, and seconded. The motion to accept the nominations as listed was passed on a voice vote.

Elections

The Bishop called on the Rev. Gini DiStanislao, Head Teller, and Ms. Jessica Mancini from Echo 360, to explain the electronic voting procedures.

The Rev. Mary Margaret Winn and Ms. Deborah Austin were elected to the Standing Committee. The Rev. Mark Riley, Mr. Rusty Bishop, and Ms. Carolyn Kelly were elected to the Disciplinary Board.

The Rev. Grant Stokes was elected as first clergy alternate to the General Convention, and the Rev. Marc Vance was elected as second clergy alternate to the General Convention. Mr. Rusty Bishop was elected as first lay alternate to the General Convention.

Vote on Constitutional Resolution

The Bishop called on Chancellor Anne Bibeau to present and move the Constitutional resolution, CON-1. No second to the motion was required since it was presented on behalf of the Committee.

After comments from floor, the Question was called. The Constitutional Resolution, CON-1, was passed by 87% in the lay order and 90% in the clergy order. By order, the Resolution passed.

Following the Vote, a break was announced by the Bishop.

Holy Eucharist with Bishop's Annual Report

Bishop Haynes announced that the offering at the Eucharist will go to various food banks serving our geographic area. The Rev. Grant Stokes offered instructions for the Eucharist.

The Bishop's Address

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

“What You Have Is Enough...for a Miracle!”

Dear God. Listen to what Your Church has to say: **We are out of wine.** Our strength is declining. We are at a loss to continue to sustain ourselves. We long for the days when we could make merry and celebrate. We remember a time when our force was greater, when our numbers were more, and when we seemed to have enough money. Even if all of that were not entirely true (because we recognize that nostalgia can incorrectly color reality), we remember a former time when we seemed vibrant and powerful. But now we are not. The fuel which we depend on is now depleted. If you had been paying attention to your mother, you would have heard her say about us, “They have no more wine.” And even if now you don’t think this is the time to restore things, we are here to tell you, “Lord Jesus, your Church has run out of wine.” We are ready to do whatever you say.

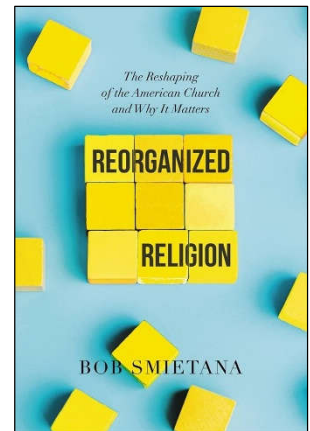
Weddings are a time of celebration. Lord Jesus Christ, you know personally how important weddings were to the people of your day. Their lives were hard...grinding days of tedium and monotony. A wedding was the high point of the year...something that your people looked forward to for weeks and months. Weddings were a time for feasting and drinking, and hosts knew better than to keep wine in short supply. We remember that you were at a wedding once when they ran out of wine. Perhaps the host didn’t plan well enough; perhaps the guests drank more than that host intended...and yet the fact remained that the wedding was only half over and the wine was gone. The host was powerless to rectify the situation. But your mother knew you well enough to know that you, the Son of God, were not powerless. She could push you to do something.

And what did you do? You looked around to see what there was. And you saw the empty jars that hold water for the Jewish Rites of Purification. You saw implements of worship, important implements of worship; and you pressed them into duty to meet the oncoming crisis. Now these jars were empty, and they had to be filled with something. Water is a precious thing...at least in Israel it was and still is. But you knew these people had water and so you commanded them to fill the jars with what they had. So the wedding host, who had run out of wine, had something to put in the jars. Now water isn't wine. We all know that. But it's what they had, and they did what you told them to do. They filled the jars with what they had. **And that's all they had to do. All they had to do was what you commanded – fill the jars with water, the thing that they had.** You did the rest, Lord Christ. You did the transformation. You changed the water to wine, a fore-visioning of your blood...your blood that saves the world. And in that, your glory was revealed. Well now, Jesus, your Church is out of wine, and we need your transforming, life-giving blood in order to survive. Please tell us what to do and we will do it. The Church, and in fact the whole world, needs your glory revealed.



We know that you know, but can we tell you a little bit about how we see that the wine has run out? In his book, *Reorganized Religion: The Reshaping of the American Church and Why It Matters*, Bob Smietana summarizes the empty jars of the Church that we might offer:

- Census Bureau: in 1960 in America 89% of the population was white, 10% was black, and less than 1% was of other ethnic origins.
- We all know that is changing and the Census Bureau predicts that by 2060, 100 years later, whites will make up 43% of the population, Hispanics 28%, Blacks 15%, and Asian Americans 9%.
- What this means is that in our church populations today older Christians are predominantly white and outnumber people of color 5 to 1. But in the younger church population groups of white Christians and groups of people of color are more equally balanced. ***This means that Christians in general are becoming a more diverse group.***
- **The Silent Generation: people born from 1928 to 1945 (ages 79-96):** 84% of them identify as Christian and attend church once a week or more.
- **Millennials:** Only 49% identify as Christian and only 22% even go to church. 40% of this group claims to have no religion.
- **What does this mean for congregations and faith communities all over our diocese who are lamenting the lack of younger people among them?** Lord Jesus, just as you commanded the empty stone jars to be brought forward and to be filled with what your people had, what would you command us to do? What do we have lying around that you can use for our transformation? What empty jars do we have? What do we have to fill



them with? Could it be that the population we have around us, which is becoming more and more diverse, means that we must fill the jars with those people? Could it be that what we have around us is more and more people who are different from us? What would filling the jars with them challenge us to do?

- What else do we have to put in the jars? Let's talk about attendance and money.
(Graphics by The Rev. Molly F. James, Deputy Executive Officer of General Convention)

Changes in Plate and Pledge Revenue



Year	Plate and Pledge	Number of parishes
2010	\$1.27 billion	7067
2015	\$1.32 billion	6996
2019	\$1.35 billion	6897
2022	\$1.34 billion	6789

Membership Overall – while declining (blue), and while ASA is declining (gray), plate and pledge revenue (yellow/green) is remaining solid or rising. Fewer members are giving more.

Membership Overall



Sacramental Trends which show that the membership is declining.

Sacramental Trends, 1980 - 2022

Year	Baptisms	Marriages	Burials
1980	64,367 children 8,611 adults	39,862	50,070
2000	49,904 children 7,259 adults	24,054	40,117
2019* (pre-Covid)	19,716 children 3,866 adults	6,484	26,667
2022	15,272 children 2,147 adults	5,562	25,905

Clergy Trends: shows shift to part-time/**Bi-vocational**.



Clergy Trends

- 18% of our congregations have multiple clergy on staff
- 12% (or just over 800) of our congregations are served by a priest who is either retired or not active in the Pension Fund
- In 2022, 54% of our clergy are listed as part-time on the parochial report
- In 2010 that number was 26%

So, Lord Jesus, while our church buildings may seem like empty jars with members that don't fill them to the brim, we do have good solid people coming who continue to love your church passionately. Don't you want us to put **THEM** into the jars? And these people seem to have some financial, material, and human resources that we can continue to count on. And we still have our Sacraments and our worship. We might be administering fewer Sacraments, but we believe that those Sacraments are changing the world; and we would like to put them into the jars that stand before you. And we have our priests...all of them...those who want to work fulltime as priests and those who are called to bi-vocational ministry. All of these are longing to jump into the empty jars to await your transformation.

And while we're at it, Lord Christ, we have some **sources of pride**...and we toss those sources into the empty jars as well:



Sources of Pride

FACT survey asked about our sources of pride in our congregations. Across all the responses the following five themes emerged:

- Sense of Community
- Love
- Hospitality
- Faith
- Outreach ministries
- Diversity

- Sense of Community
- Love
- Hospitality
- Faith
- Outreach
- Ministries (Including Our Sacraments)
- Diversity

Resources are financial, material, and human. These are opportunities for Transformation.

Lord Jesus, help us to remember, as it happened at that wedding in Cana, that all we must do is fill the jars with what we have. You will do the rest, just as you did then. You will take it all and transform it into that which sustains, into that which gives life. We might be out of wine, but we are not out of **YOU**; and neither are we out of your sustaining, life-transforming grace.

Even now, Lord Jesus, we can see signs of your transformation. In our churches, faith communities, and gathering places in our diocese, we can see the beginning of water turned to wine.

We were thrilled to welcome Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his staff here for Revival in the Spring. This was an extraordinary gift to us, particularly given the decline of Bishop Curry's health over the summer. His preaching and time spent with us were a boost to many of us in our spiritual lives and in our life together as a diocese. Throughout the year we continued to learn together and pray together as we engaged in book studies and other formational opportunities. Many of us gathered for Cursillo weekends as we learned how to fashion a Rule of Life. More and more young people are coming to Cursillo. On Advent 1, we gathered as a diocese in retreat

to prepare for the coming of the Savior – at Christmas and in our daily lives. We want to make it clear that we are filling our jars with a hunger for you.

We are aware that as baby boomer clergy retire, we are facing challenges in finding clergy to fill vacant cures. But your people love your churches, Lord Christ; and lay people are expressing a desire to be trained more and more as preachers, administrators, healers, and pastoral caregivers. As a result in several congregations, rooted ministry is taking place where lay leaders partner with clergy to help smaller churches stay open when they might otherwise have closed. In the Fall of this year, I participated in a Bishop's Collaborative at Virginia Theological Seminary on rooted ministry. During these days at VTS, I listened to young people – millennials and people from Generations X, Y, and Z – talk about their hope for the Church and their desire to see it thrive. From that collaborative, I came away with a deep conviction that the church will live and live vibrantly. It may not be the Church that I know today, but it will be your Church, Lord Jesus, transformed and enlivened for your purposes. Likewise, in those rare moments this summer, when I was able to be with staff and campers at Camp Chanco, I heard of the younger generation's interest in being engaged with a Church that is reaching out to a hurting world. I have confidence in these young people and thank you Lord for enlivening them. In December of last year, we concluded the first two-year cycle of our Diocesan Congregational Development Institute. So far nine parishes have participated, and we graduated 16 participants who are even now conducting projects in their parishes and faith communities that are transforming them for the wider church. We are beginning to taste your amazing wine, Lord Jesus!

Into the empty jars, Lord Jesus, we are pouring our efforts at racial reconciliation. The Episcopal Church has invited us onto the journey of Becoming Beloved Community, and we as a diocese have embarked on that journey. Many of us have completed the Sacred Ground Curriculum and have expanded our education through book groups and prayerful conversations. As leaders in our congregations and in the diocese, we have participated in Racial Healing Workshops, taking the necessary time to devote to this education. As you will hear later, we have done the work of developing our own statement acknowledging those who occupied these lands prior to the arrival of European settlers. And we are trying to live true to our Baptismal promise to reach out to the lost and unloved. Countless faith communities and parishes are extending their outreach beyond their doors. You will hear of two of them today in the work of Dos Santos on the Eastern Shore and Mission of the Holy Spirit in Norfolk. We acknowledge the work of others in addition to these two who add a spirited effervescence to this wine of transformation.

In the past year, we erected and set in motion the work of our Creation Care Team who is joining with parishes to launch creation care initiatives. We are grateful to all who are responding to this work. In the care of our diocesan resources, we have been careful to establish a balanced budget and to avoid having to draw from our reserves. As we receive diocesan pledges, we are grateful to notice that the trend in giving is going upwards. More and more parishes are increasing their percentage of giving to the diocese. Any increase in percentage of giving will fill the jars and help us close the gaps. We are grateful for that trust and for the gifts of faith that come our way.

Another thing we might put into those jars, Lord Jesus, is our work of evangelism. Even though Episcopalians are uncomfortable with that word, we made some progress last year. During our DCDI weekends and through some of our formational opportunities, we have practiced sharing our faith stories. Through the work of our youth missionary and college chaplains we are revitalizing our campus ministries. Currently we have ministries at William & Mary, Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University, and Hampden-Sydney College and Longwood University. We are also making efforts to engage ministries at Norfolk State University. And in Lawrenceville, we are continuing our efforts to assist St. Paul's College for Life as they facilitate the rebirth of St. Paul's College. To assist us in our efforts at evangelism, both within the church and beyond, we have hired a Director of Communications. Please join me in welcoming Patsy Martin who started with us on February 1, is now in her tenth day of employment, and is fully engaged in the work of Annual Council. If she survives this, then she is a keeper, isn't she?



VISION STATEMENT



We are a healthy, connected, diocese equipped to proclaim the Gospel.

And finally, Jesus, we have one final thing to put in the jars. We have a vision – a vision of what your Church can look like in this diocese. The vision goes something like this: ***We are a healthy, connected, diocese equipped to proclaim the Gospel.*** It's a simple statement but one that we believe in. You'll notice that we say we are this right now...not that we're becoming it or that we hope to become it. Yes, we know that there are parts of us that aren't healthy. And yes, we know that there are parts that are disconnected

and fractured. And yes, we know that as a Church that has run out of wine, we might not currently be so equipped to proclaim the Gospel as we would like. But we believe, Lord Jesus. We believe in your transformative power, so even in our brokenness, we want to hold on to the reality of our wholeness: We are a healthy connected diocese equipped to proclaim the Gospel!

Lord God, you remind us in the Book of Deuteronomy that you provided for the Israelites during the 40 years that they wandered. Verse 5 of the 29th chapter says,



“During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet...I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.” Many of you remember during my first Annual Council address, I introduced you to my Holy Spirit shoes which my niece



made for my Consecration. I invited you to join me in putting on running shoes to do the work to which we are called. I counted on those shoes not to wear out. This was prior to Jackie. Jackie is a Pet Refuge dog that my daughter Rebecca (who lives with us) invited to come into our home. Jackie has anxiety issues and likes to chew on things. Of all the shoes in my closet, Jackie chose the Holy Spirit to calm her anxiety. At first, I was a little miffed that God had not seen fit to promise me what He promised the Israelites. But then I realized that the Israelites did not have Jackie wandering around the wilderness with them. And after all, the shoes are still not worn out. They're still wearable. In fact, I'm wearing them today. I invite you once again...all of us...to put on our running shoes and jump into the jars, along with everything else, so that God can transform us into life-giving wine.



Oh yes, Lord Jesus! We have a lot to put into the jars. We want them to be brimming over. And now deploy your servants. Teach us how to draw out of these jars and take this life-giving, sustaining, enlivening wine out into the world. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." We want to be those faithful people, stepping away from those jars with our ladles full. We can't see where we're going, and we can only imagine right now the complete transformation that you have in mind for us. But we know

that it is an abundant transformation, pressed down and flowing over. Your people want to receive your wine, Lord Jesus! Tell us what to do!

Lunch followed the Eucharist, and Council reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Introduction of Postulants & Candidates

Bishop Haynes asked the Postulants and Candidates to come forward to the dais to be recognized.

Postulant for the Vocational Diaconate:

Ms. Allison Johnson – Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach – Deacon Formation Collaborative at Bexley Seabury

Postulants for the Priesthood:

Ms. Talley Banazek – Redeemer, Midlothian - VTS

Ms. Robin Brown – St. Andrew's, Norfolk – Yale Divinity School

Ms. Allison Pace – Redeemer, Midlothian – St. Luke's School of Theology at Sewanee

Candidates for the Priesthood:

Ms. Marie Kirk-Clunan – Galilee, Virginia Beach

Mr. Daniel Toven – Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk – Bexley Seabury

Ms. Anne Zobel – All Saints, Virginia Beach – Bexley Seabury

Mission of the Holy Spirit Presentation

Mr. Keith Josey and the Rev. Win Lewis made a presentation on the activities of the Mission of the Holy Spirit.

Memorial Resolutions

The Bishop called on the Very Rev. Keith Emerson to present the Memorial Resolutions. A brief summary of the ministry of each individual was presented.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION The Reverend Josephine A. Taylor

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Josephine Taylor to her heavenly home on March 8, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, she was born in Richmond, VA on March 11, 1933, the daughter of Robert and Josephine Arnold; and,

WHEREAS, Jo graduated from St. Catherine's School in Richmond in 1951; and,

WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Richmond in 1954 and a Master's degree in this same subject from Tulane University in 1965; and,

WHEREAS, she taught English for twelve years; and,

WHEREAS, Jo answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which she earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1982; and,

WHEREAS, she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 23, 1984 by The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, and a Priest on May 11th of the following year by the Rt. Rev. David Henry Lewis, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, she served in several parishes in Maryland and Connecticut prior to accepting a call to be the Interim Rector of St. George's Church in Newport News in 1998; and,

WHEREAS, Jo was especially adept at ministering to congregations in transition, she went on to serve as Interim Rector of the Church of the Advent in Norfolk from 1999-2000, at Abingdon Church in White Marsh from 2001-2002, at Hungars Parish in Machipongo from 2002-2004, and at St. Aidan's Church in Virginia Beach from 2005-2007; and,

WHEREAS, she also served at the Church of the Epiphany in Norfolk from 2000-2001 as well as at Christ and St. Luke's in Norfolk from 2008-2012; and,

WHEREAS, Jo loved being outdoors, especially bird watching and taking long walks;
and,

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents and her older brother Robert
Bacon Arnold; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived by her daughter Katherine, a grandson, and a greatgrandson; now
therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives
thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-eight years
in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend
Josephine A. Taylor; 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 daughter, Katherine.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Robert Owen Johnston

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Robert Johnston to his heavenly home on April
13, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on December 16, 1919 in Uniontown, PA, the son of Walter
and Edna Johnston; and,

WHEREAS, Bob graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1946 and
earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Chicago in
1949; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from the Command & General Staff College (U.S. War
College) in 1951; and,

WHEREAS, he married Josephine Laretta Rich in 1952, a union which produced six children;
and,

WHEREAS, Bob served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War before retiring
from the U.S. Air Force as a Lt. Colonel in 1968; and,

WHEREAS, Bob answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in
Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in
Divinity degree in 1970; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 29, 1970 by The Rt. Rev. David Shepherd Rose, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on April 9th of the following year; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Rector of Bath Parish from 1970-1975, and as Rector of Jackson Feild Home in Jarrett from 1975-1979 prior to returning to Bath Parish to serve as Rector from 1979-1985; and,

WHEREAS, Bob served as Interim Rector in multiple parishes in the Caribbean, Latin America, and South America from 1985-mid 2000s, a time in which he was an active volunteer with Witness for Peace; and,

WHEREAS, Bob was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 61 years, a brother, grandson, and daughter-in-law; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his children, Robert Johnston, Jeffrey Johnston, Laura Stephens, Lee Anne Hecker, Edna Johnston, and Sarah Johnston, their spouses, four grandsons, and two great-grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-two years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Robert O. Johnston; 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 each of his children.

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend David Teschner**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call David Teschner to his heavenly home on June 15, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on November 11, 1951 in Natick, MA, the son of Douglas and Mary Teschner; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from the University of Rhode Island, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977; and,

WHEREAS, David answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in

Divinity degree in 1986; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 21, 1986 by The Rt. Rev. George Nelson Hunt III, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on March 22nd of the following year; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Assistant to the Rector of St. Stephen's Church in Richmond from 1986-1990 and as Chaplain at St. Catherine's School in Richmond during the 1989-1990 term; and,

WHEREAS, David accepted a call to serve as Rector of Christ & Grace Church in Petersburg, VA in 1990; and,

WHEREAS, throughout his ministry at Christ & Grace Church David was enthusiastically devoted to outreach ministries including walking for hunger, housing the homeless, and building houses with Habitat for Humanity; and,

WHEREAS, his passion for these projects inspired the members of the parish to join him in these efforts; and,

WHEREAS, David served many years as our diocesan representative to Episcopal Relief & Development; a position through which he educated us about the work of this ministry and encouraged our financial support of it; and,

WHEREAS, his joy for life drew people to him, always having the goal to make every person feel valued and appreciated; and,

WHEREAS, David is remembered for embodying the faith in everyday life, not by putting himself on a pedestal, but by being human and fallible as we all are, always finding God in the midst of his joys and struggles; and,

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated and well-rounded parish priest who was especially thoughtful, attentive, and comforting in and around a parishioner's time of death; and,

WHEREAS, David delighted in raising his two sons, John and George, and at the age of 56 bicycled across the country with them; and,

WHEREAS, he married Juanita Watts Teschner on December 30, 2000; and,

WHEREAS, David retired as Rector of Christ & Grace Church in 2016, after twenty-six years of faithful and effective ministry; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Juanita, sons John and George and their spouses, brothers Doug and Jim, grandchildren August and Max, and

stepsons Jacob and Ben; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-six years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend David Teschner; 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 copies be sent to his wife and sons.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Philip Gendron Porcher, Jr.

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Philip Porcher to his heavenly home on September 7, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, he was born March 12, 1932 in Mount Pleasant, SC, the son of Philip and Wilhelmina Porcher; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from Clemson University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954; and,

WHEREAS, Philip answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1957; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 27, 1957 by The Rt. Rev. Thomas N. Carruthers, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on May 19th of the following year; and,

WHEREAS, he married Georgia A. Porcher on August 24, 1963, a union which produced three children; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Priest-in-Charge, Chaplain, and Associate to the Rector at various parishes in South Carolina prior to coming to Southern Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, in 1967 Philip accepted a call to become the Vicar of St. Thomas' Church in Chesapeake, a position he held for five years; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Rector of Grace Church in Yorktown from 1973-1975; and,

WHEREAS, Philip accepted a call to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop of our diocese from 1975, overseeing Christian Education; and,

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in establishing and planning for the Shrine Mont Christian Educator's Retreat, a yearly summer event which had a tremendous impact on the life and ministry of our diocese; and,

WHEREAS, working with the Alban Institute, he launched a pilot project in our diocese to introduce Interim Ministry and the value of consultants to congregations in clerical transition, an endeavor which led him to author a book titled *Why Use Interim Pastors or Interim Consultants*; and,

WHEREAS, Philip was part of the Interim Ministry Network and became nationally known for his knowledge and expertise in this field; and,

WHEREAS, upon retiring in 1995 he returned to his beloved Palmetto State and served as the Interim Rector of St. Thomas' Church in Charleston; and,

WHEREAS, Philip was preceded in death by his brothers Kogo Porcher and Francis Porcher; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Georgia Ann, sister Daisy Stoudemire, brother John Porcher, daughters Lisa Rubin and Kelly Porcher, son Philip, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty-six years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Philip Porcher; 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 wife.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
Bonnie J. Kiermaier

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Bonnie J. Kiermaier to her heavenly home on December 9, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie was a faithful servant to God's Church and the Diocese of Southern Virginia, serving as Administrator for three successive bishops: Charles Vaché, Frank Vest, and David Bane; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie became widely known for her beautiful liturgical fabric art and jewelry; and many clergy and churches of this Diocese and many others use her stoles, chasubles, and frontals as part of their Sunday wardrobe, preserving one aspect of her legacy; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie was also a passionate advocate for justice and reparations for those communities harmed throughout our history and our present; and, became a mentor in the Sacred Ground classes at Old Donation Episcopal Church; helping 70+ members learn the truth of our history and how to work to do our part of “repairing the breach;” and

WHEREAS, Bonnie had an enormous knowledge of Church tradition and practice, which she practiced and taught particularly in the areas of prayer and spirituality as a friend and also as a trained Spiritual Director; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie’s love for people on the journey made her a popular companion; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia give thanks for the vibrant and faithful witness offered to the Glory of God by Bonnie J. Kiermaier in decades of ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bonnie J. Kiermaier; 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 sister, Cindy Watkins Smith.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Dr. Patricia Seney Geerdes

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Patricia Geerdes to her heavenly home on December 20, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, she was born in Richmond, VA on September 2, 1938, the daughter of Jack and Audrey Seney; and,

WHEREAS, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1978; and,

WHEREAS, Patricia answered God’s call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Union Presbyterian School of Theology in Richmond, from which she earned a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1983; and,

WHEREAS, she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 11, 1983 by The Rt. Rev. Robert Bruce Hall, and a Priest on May 1st of the following

year by the Rt. Rev. David Henry Lewis, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, during her ministry, Pat served in several parishes in the Dioceses of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Southeast Florida; and,

WHEREAS, she married James Geerdes in 1968, a marriage which lasted nineteen years and produced two children; and,

WHEREAS, she married Donald Goldstein in 2000, together raising their granddaughter Mariah Donovan; and,

WHEREAS, upon retirement, she served in several parishes as Interim Rector, including St. John's Church in Petersburg; and,

WHEREAS, Pat's ministry was marked by love for her parishioners, story-telling, poetry, theology, compassionate counseling, and captivating preaching and teaching; and,

WHEREAS, her family remembers her as being charismatic, intelligent, and charitable, always encouraging them to be true to themselves; and,

WHEREAS, she was a gifted artist (oil paintings) and cook; and,

WHEREAS, Pat was preceded in death by her husband Donald; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived by her siblings Victoria Daniels and Jacklyn Moore, children John Geerdes and Margaret Carneal, six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including forty years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Dr. Patricia Geerdes; 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 copies be sent to her children, John and Margaret.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION The Reverend David Fredric Lassalle

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call David Lassalle to his heavenly home on January 6, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on September 30, 1941 in Greenville, PA, the son of Fredric and Elizabeth Lassalle; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from Thiel College in his hometown, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963; and,

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

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 18, 1966 by The Rt. Rev. William Crittenden, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on May 1st of the following year; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Curate or Vicar at three different congregations in Pennsylvania prior to coming to Southern Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, in 1978 David accepted a call to serve as Chaplain at the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry Center at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, a position he held until 2011; and,

WHEREAS, during this time he made himself available for Interim Ministry in our diocese, serving several different congregations including St. Paul's in Suffolk and St. Peter's in Norfolk; and,

WHEREAS, David served as the Episcopal Co-Rector at Church of the Holy Apostles in Virginia Beach from 1997-2009; and,

WHEREAS, he served as a chaplain to the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity; and,

WHEREAS, David is remembered by family, friends, and parishioners for his "infectious laugh, booming voice, passionate sermons, tall tales, and giant hugs;" and,

WHEREAS, David was an avid hunter and enthusiastic sailor who enjoyed all things outdoors; and,

WHEREAS, he married Sally Keyte Lassalle on August 8, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, David was preceded in death by his first wife of fifty years, Sherran Anne Gotjen Lassalle; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Sally, sons Eric, Christopher, Sean, and Ian, his sister Kathleen Heltzel, sister-in-law Bonnie Hafer, four nephews and nieces, and eleven grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty-seven years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend David Lassalle; 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 wife.

Bishop Haynes called for a moment of silence and offered a concluding prayer. She entertained a motion to approve the Memorial Resolutions as published. The motion was made from the floor, seconded, and passed.

Video – Land Acknowledgement Group

A video was presented to Council by the Land Acknowledgement Group.

Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombeck was welcomed to the dais by Bishop Haynes for his presentation.

Break

Agricultural Workers Advocacy Coalition (AWAC) Presentation

The Rev. Rick Willis and Ms. Sharon Parker reported on the work of the Agricultural Workers Advocacy Coalition on the Eastern Shore.

Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI) Presentation

Canon Lynn Farlin, the Rev. Willis Foster, and the Rev. Jeunee Godsey presented information about the Diocesan Church Development Institute.

Deacons Formation Collaborative Presentation

The Rev. Carter Sinclair made a presentation about the Deacons Formation Collaborative at Bexley Seabury Seminary.

Chanco on the James Presentation

Mr. Gareth Kalfas, Missioner for Camp and Retreat Ministries, offered a presentation about Chanco Camp and Conference Center.

Video – Creation Care Team

The Creation Care Team, led by Canon Lynn Farlin, presented a video about creation care efforts in our Diocese.

The 2024 Budget

Mr. John Fogarty, Diocese Treasurer; Ms. Judy Dobson, Director of Finance and Administration;

and Mr. Bill Brauer, Chair of the Program Budget and Review Committee presented the 2024 budget.

Thanks for their work was offered to Judy Dobson, the entire PB&R committee and retiring member Scott Norris for their labor on the budget.

John Fogarty moved the adoption of the Budget. After a second to the motion from the floor, the Budget was passed by voice vote.

Introduction of Diocesan Staff

The Diocese Staff was recognized by the Bishop:

Susan Allen – Program & Benefits Administrator

Shauna Daley – Administrative Assistant

Megan Dern – Youth & Young Adult Missioner

Judy Dobson – Director of Finance & Administration

Canon Lynn Farlin – Canon for Formation

Canon Willis Foster – Canon for Diversity & Transformation

Canon Roy Hoffman – Canon to the Ordinary

Gareth Kalfas – Missioner for Camp & Retreat Ministries

Hope Leach – Finance Officer

Liz Martin – Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary

Patsy Martin – Director of Communications

Leah Sicignano – Bishop's Executive Secretary

Ben Urquidi – Media Specialist

Ross Wright – Director of Vocational Ministries

As their names were read, they came forward to the dais, and all received the thanks of those present via their applause.

Bishop Haynes noted that the Offering was \$2029.50 for our regional foodbanks.

Closing Worship

Bishop Haynes led Closing Worship.

Council Adjourns

After the Rev. Michael Stone reminded all to return their voting devices, the Bishop entertained a motion to adjourn Council. The motion was made from the floor and seconded, and Council adjourned by voice vote at 3:49 p.M.

Respectfully submitted,

(the Rev.) Susan Grimm
Diocesan Secretary