



The 134th Annual Convention

February 7, 2026

A Resolution of Solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota in Challenging Times

Submitted by canonical clergy and lay delegates to the 134th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia:

The Very Reverend Grant Stokes, The Reverend Canon Win Lewis, The Reverend Julia Ashby, The Reverend Connie Gilman, The Reverend Dr. J. Derek Harbin, The Reverend Warren Hicks, The Reverend Julia Dorsey R. Loomis, The Reverend Mark C. McKone-Sweet, The Reverend Edith Raby, The Reverend Bob Randall, The Reverend Jess Stribling, Dr. Rebecca Rose Crouch, Ms. Clifford King Harbin, Ms. Rose Jacques, Mr. Hunter Swafford-Nowell, Mr. William Swafford-Nowell, Ms. Martha Underwood, Ms. Lenore Whitehurst

Preamble to the Resolution of Late Occasion

In the spirit of unity and discernment, the 134th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia convenes as representatives of the faithful—lay delegates and canonical clergy—called to address the urgent concerns of our time. Recent events, notably the tragic shooting of peaceful protestors advocating for the dignity and rights of immigrants, have deeply impacted our Church and our nation. Guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Way of Love, and our Baptismal Promises, we are compelled to join our voices with those throughout The Episcopal Church in the United States of America, seeking justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

The purpose of this Resolution of Late Occasion is to affirm our commitment to the dignity of all people, especially immigrants and those seeking refuge, and to call for prayerful action and advocacy in response to recent events. We seek to uphold the teachings of our faith, as expressed in Holy Scripture and the traditions of The Episcopal Church, and to encourage our diocese to respond with solidarity, compassion, and justice.

This Resolution of Late Occasion is presented following the deliberations of the January 25, 2026, Convocation IV meeting of clergy and lay delegates and in response to pastoral letters from The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, and our diocese in the last four weeks. It is submitted in accordance with canonical procedure, to be reviewed by the Secretary of Convention, Chair of Convention, and Chair of the Resolutions Committee, on this 29th day of January 2026.

WHEREAS, we believe that all people are created in the image of God; and,

- WHEREAS, in our Baptismal Covenant we promise to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; and,
- WHEREAS, in our Baptismal Covenant we also promise to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being; and,
- WHEREAS, as followers of Jesus, we are called to stand in solidarity with all beloved children of God, including the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, and those made vulnerable by the actions and/or inactions of some of those in power; and,
- WHEREAS, recent events in Minneapolis, and in other places throughout the United States, have exposed a pattern of violence, and the breakdown of civility, public accountability, and seeing the face of Christ in each other; and,
- WHEREAS, as The Right Reverend Susan B. Haynes, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, proclaimed, “As we watch what is unfolding on the streets of Minneapolis, it is hard for us to believe and even harder to proclaim that ‘the kingdom of heaven has come near;’” and,
- WHEREAS, The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, proclaimed, “As has too often been the case throughout history, the most vulnerable among us are bearing the burden, shouldering the greatest share of risk and loss, and enduring the violation of their very humanity;” and,
- WHEREAS, Bishop Rowe wrote, “our church will continue to be tested in every conceivable way as we insist that death and despair do not have the last word, and as we stand with immigrants and the most vulnerable among us who reside at the heart of God;” now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that we, the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, mourn the loss of Renée Nicole Macklin Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti and all others who have died while in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody, especially the 32 deaths during the past year whose names are known to us, and that we pray for the peaceful repose of their souls; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we acknowledge and endorse the invitation by The Right Reverend Craig Loya, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, for our prayers and expressions of solidarity and support; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we acknowledge and endorse the pastoral letter issued on Sunday, January 25, 2026, by Bishop Rowe and the pastoral letter issued on Monday, January 26, 2026, by Bishop Haynes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we, the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia seek to build bridges in love, revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Great Commandment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, represented by the 134th Annual Convention, does indeed stand in solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota and all of God's people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of this Convention communicate this resolution to the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota.