



**Minutes of the 133rd Annual Council
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
February 7-8, 2025**

**Plenary Business Session
Saturday, February 8, 2025
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 Land Acknowledgement Statement was offered.

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 70 clergy and 80 congregations represented.

Announcements (Dispatch of Business)

The Rev. Michael Stone reminded all to silence their phones, wear their name tags, and be aware that the meeting was being live-broadcasted. Voting devices must be returned at the end of Council.

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 133rd 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. Bishop's Appointments to Council Committees

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. Charles Cowen, St. Andrew's, Norfolk

HEAD TELLERS

The Rev. Gini DiStanislao, Manakin, Powhatan
Ms. Susan Allen, Diocesan Staff

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 132nd 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 Guests
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 and Canonical Resolutions
- Break – 10 minutes
14. Holy Eucharist with Bishop's Annual Report
- Lunch – 1 hour
15. Council Reconvenes
16. Introduction of Postulants & Candidates
17. St. Luke's Kenbridge Shrine Presentation
18. Keynote Speaker – the Rev. Jay Sidebotham
19. DCDI Presentation
- Break – 10 minutes
20. Saint Paul's College 4 Life (SPC4Life) Presentation
21. Chanco on the James Presentation
22. Creation Care Presentation
23. Memorial Resolutions
24. Ridley Foundation – David Teschner Award
25. Episcopal Youth Community Presentation
26. Ecumenism in the Diocese Presentation
27. Vocational Diaconate Presentation
28. Bishop's Mutual Ministry Review Presentation
29. 2025 Budget
30. Courtesy Resolutions
31. Your Diocesan Staff Presentation
32. Introduction of Diocesan Staff
33. Closing Worship
34. Council Adjourns

c. Approval of Minutes of the 132nd Annual Council

d. Election of Officers, Committees, & 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)

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

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (Canon XII)

term commences July 1

The Rev. Ashley Urquidi, All Saints, Virginia Beach (Chair)

Ms. Heidi Anderson, Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk

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

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

The Rev. Jared Grant, Christ & St. Luke's Norfolk

Mr. Chris Picking, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

The Rev. Grace Rigby, Redeemer, Midlothian

The Rev. Philip Shearin

Ms. Susan Summerlin, Emmanuel, Virginia Beach

Ms. Courtney Wheeler, Ascension, Norfolk

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

CHURCH PENSION COMMISSION (Canon XXIV)

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes
Mr. Edwin Kellam, Good Shepherd, Norfolk
Mr. John Fogarty, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

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)

e. Granting of Seat & Voice

PAROCHIAL CLERGY & RETIRED CLERGY (NON-CANONICALLY RESIDENT)

The Rev. Stephen Batten, EC
The Rev. Todd Delaney, SD
The Rev. Lisa Erdeljon, EC
The Rev. Alan Mead, CP
The Rev. Terry Miller, VA
The Rev. David Perkins, GA
The Rev. Hector Sintim, NC
The Rev. Canon Mary Thorpe, VA

POSTULANTS & CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS

Ms. Talley Banazek – Redeemer, Midlothian
Mr. Allen Cersley – St. Michael's, Bon Air
Ms. Rebecca Crouch – Trinity, Portsmouth
Ms. Helen Sharpe-Williams – Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk

YOUTH & COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Lunde – EYC Board, St. Thomas, Chesapeake
Chloe Mohr – EYC Board, St. Thomas, Chesapeake
Dietrich Walker - EYC Board, Good Shepherd, McKenney
Kate Wheeler – EYC Board, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
Courtney Mason – EYC Chaperone, St. David's, North Chesterfield
Kylee Hartman-Caballero – College Representative, Old Dominion University
Sean Morris – College Representative, Old Dominion University
Forester Randlett – College Representative, Old Dominion University
Adrienne Monahan – Lay Chaplain, Old Dominion University

OTHER

The Rev. Jay Sidebotham, Keynote Speaker
The Rev. Jenny Spivey, Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay
The Rev. James Nickols, ELCA, Hickory Neck, Toano
Deacon Gary Harmeyer, Holy Apostles, Virginia Beach
Ms. Patricia Mead, Chaplain to the Retired
Ms. Susan Allen, Program & Benefits Administrator
Mr. Don Carlson, Missioner for Youth & College Ministries
Ms. Eve Dabney, Finance Officer
Ms. Judy Dobson, Director of Finance & Administration
Canon Lynn Farlin, Canon for Formation
Mr. Gareth Kalfas, Missioner for Camp & Retreat Ministries
Ms. Patsy Martin, Director of Communications
Ms. Leah Sicignano, Bishop's Executive Secretary

Mr. Ben Urquidi, Media Specialist
Ms. Liz Villanueva, Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary

The Consent Agenda was adopted.

Receipt and Referral of Resolutions

Chancellor Anne Bibeau noted that there is one Constitutional Resolution and one Canonical Resolution to be considered. The Rev. Keith Emerson reported that there were 11 Memorial Resolutions, and 2 Courtesy Resolutions, and the Committee moves their adoption.

Recognition of Visitors

Bishop Haynes welcomed the following guests to Council:

The Rev. Mary Anne Glover – General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches

Deacon Gary Harmeyer – Catholic deacon serving at Holy Apostles in Virginia Beach

The Rev. Dr. Lissa Long – Transitional General Presbyter, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

The Rev. Jenny Spivey – Senior Chaplain, Westminster Canterbury, Virginia Beach

Announcement of Executive Board Elections

Bishop Haynes welcomed the following to the Executive Board:

The Rev. Ben Randall, Convocation 2

Mr. Edmund Russell III, Convocation 3

The Bishop thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Board:

Mr. David Ingold, Convocation 1

Ms. Nina Joyner, Convocation 2

The Rev. Melody Perdue, Convocation 2

Mr. Jerome Bynum, Convocation 3

Ms. Cleo Shield, Convocation 8

Appointment of Deans

Bishop Haynes introduced the Deans:

Convocation 1 – The Very Rev. Bob Coniglio

Convocation 2 – The Very Rev. Ashley Urquidi

Convocation 3 – The Very Rev. Stewart Tabb

Convocation 4 – TBD

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

She thanked the Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson for his 15 years of faithful service as the Dean of Convocation 4.

Introduction of Clergy New to the Diocese

Bishop Haynes introduced the clergy who are new to the Diocese and asked them to come forward:

The Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis	Epiphany, Danville	North Carolina
The Rev. Stephen Batten	Hungars Cure Parish	East Carolina
The Rev. Todd Delaney	Christ Church, Smithfield	San Diego
The Rev. Lisa Erdeljon	St. John's, Hampton	East Carolina
The Rev. Keith Josey	St. Stephen's, Norfolk	Newly Ordained
The Rev. Marie Kirk-Clunan	Holy Apostles, VB	Newly Ordained
The Rev. John Francis Maher III	St. Matthew's, Chesterfield	Wisconsin
The Rev. Hector Sintim	St. Cyprian's, Hampton	North Carolina
The Rev. Daniel Toven	St. Andrew & St. Luke	Newly Ordained Beacon, NY
The Rev. Anne Zobel	St. Andrew's, Norfolk	Newly Ordained

They were greeted with a round of applause.

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.

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

Bishop Haynes called on our Head Teller, the Rev. Gini DiStanislao and Susan Allen from the diocesan staff who will explain the voting procedures and lead us through the balloting.

Faye Felton was elected to the Standing Committee in the Lay Order.

There being 3 candidates for the Clergy position on the Standing Committee, the election followed the procedure in the Rules of Order. The Rev. Bill Taylor was dropped after the first ballot. The Rev. Seldon Walker was elected on the second ballot.

There being no candidates for the Disciplinary Board or the Provincial Synod, there was no election for those positions.

Vote on Constitutional and Canonical Resolutions

Bishop Haynes called on Anne Bibeau, Chancellor of the Diocese and Chair of the Constitution & Canons committee to present and move the Constitutional Resolution. Since this motion was moved on behalf of a Committee, no second was needed.

2025 Constitutional Resolution CON-1

Second Reading

Submitted by: The Rev. Michael Stone, Christ Church, Amelia;
The Very Rev. Dr. Jeunée Godsey, St. Michael's, Bon Air;
The Rev. Mollie Roberts, Redeemer, Midlothian;
The Rev. Grace Rigby, Redeemer, Midlothian;
The Rev. Brenda Overfield, St. Matthias', Midlothian;

The Rev. Deborah Rankin, St. Barnabas, North Chesterfield

Whereas, our Lord Jesus Christ prayed to the Father for unity among all his followers that “they may be one as we are one,” (John 17:22); and

Whereas, of the 110 dioceses in The Episcopal Church, 104 dioceses, including our sister dioceses in the Commonwealth of Virginia, utilize the title “Convention” for the annual meeting of the church in their diocese, and only six dioceses retain the title “Council” for their annual meeting of the Church; and

Whereas, the use of the word “Council” to refer to the Church’s annual meeting was an intentional change made by the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States to distinguish itself from the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States during the time of the Civil War and its aftermath, therefore let it be

Resolved, that, in a spirit of reconciliation and unity, the name of the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia be changed from “Council” to “Convention;” and let it be further

Resolved, that the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia be amended by striking the word “Council” wherever the same name appears therein referring to the annual meeting of the diocese, and by replacing it with the name “Convention.”

Notes:

- We refer those interested in more background and history to read the resources compiled by the Diocese of Virginia before they made this change in 2015, specifically “**Amended Report on the Historical Development of the Name of Diocesan Annual Meetings** by Julia E. Randle, Historiographer, Diocese of Virginia, 15 January 2015,” used with the author’s permission.
- The procedure to amend the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia requires a proposed amendment to be voted on by two consecutive annual Councils. This amendment was approved by Council in 2024 and is presented for a second reading in 2025. A proposed amendment to the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia will also be voted on in 2025.

This being the Second Reading, in voting by Order, 93% of Clergy and 87% of Lay Delegates voted “aye.” The Constitutional Amendment was passed.

Bishop Haynes called on Anne Bibeau, Chancellor of the Diocese and Chair of the Constitution & Canons committee to present and move the Canonical Resolution. Since this motion was moved on behalf of a Committee, no second was needed.

2025 Canonical Resolution C-1

Submitted by: The Rev. Michael Stone, Christ Church, Amelia;
The Very Rev. Dr. Jeunée Godsey, St. Michael’s, Bon Air;
The Rev. Mollie Roberts, Redeemer, Midlothian;
The Rev. Grace Rigby, Redeemer, Midlothian;

The Rev. Brenda Overfield, St. Matthias', Midlothian;
The Rev. Deborah Rankin, St. Barnabas, North Chesterfield

Whereas, our Lord Jesus Christ prayed to the Father for unity among all his followers that "they may be one as we are one," (John 17:22); and

Whereas, of the 110 dioceses in The Episcopal Church, 104 dioceses, including our sister dioceses in the Commonwealth of Virginia, utilize the title "Convention" for the annual meeting of the church in their diocese, and only six dioceses retain the title "Council" for their annual meeting of the Church; and

Whereas, the use of the word "Council" to refer to the Church's annual meeting was an intentional change made by the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States to distinguish itself from the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States during the time of the Civil War and its aftermath, therefore let it be

Resolved, that, in a spirit of reconciliation and unity, the name of the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia be changed from "Council" to "Convention;" and let it be further

Resolved, that the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia be amended by striking the word "Council" wherever the same name appears therein referring to the annual meeting of the diocese, and by replacing it with the name "Convention."

Notes:

- We refer those interested in more background and history to read the resources compiled by the Diocese of Virginia before they made this change in 2015, specifically "**Amended Report on the Historical Development of the Name of Diocesan Annual Meetings** by Julia E. Randle, Historiographer, Diocese of Virginia, 15 January 2015," used with the author's permission.
- The procedure to amend the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia requires a proposed amendment to be voted on by two consecutive annual Councils. The constitutional amendment CON-1 was approved by Council in 2024 and is presented for a second reading in 2025. Assuming that CON-1 is approved, this proposed amendment to the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia will also be voted on in 2025.

The Vote requiring a 2/3 majority, 92% of Clergy and Lay Delegates approved the motion and it was passed.

A short break was taken.

The **Holy Eucharist with Bishop's Annual Report** followed.

Bishop Haynes noted that the Offering would go to the Agricultural Workers Advocacy Coalition (AWAC) and ministries of mental health support for underserved communities in the diocese.

The Bishop's Address

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

The Venerable Bede, monk, author and scholar was one of the greatest teachers and writers of the early Middle Ages. At age 7, his parents could no longer afford to feed him, so they gave him to the monastery at Jarrow. When he was twelve, a plague ravaged and decimated the village and surrounding countryside of Northumbria, devastating the monks as well. One morning, Bede arrived in chapel to pray the morning Office and only he and the Abbot were left to pray the office. The other monks had all died or were too sick to participate.

Bede asked his Abbot, “what are we to do” and the Abbott responded by telling Bede that they were going to do what all faithful Christians would do: “we will keep praying, we will care for the sick, we will pray, we will bury the dead, we will pray, we will feed the hungry, we will pray, and then, tomorrow, we will begin again.”

Prayer and service...the rhythm of Christian life. Prayer and service...we hear that a lot, don’t we. In fact, don’t we sometimes get tired of hearing that? Don’t we sometimes get tired of doing what we think we’re supposed to do without seeing any results?

The Prophet Isaiah says, *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43: 18-19)* So you’re doing a new thing, are you, God? You say it springs forth? You ask us if we perceive it, almost with an incredulous tone of voice. Well, to tell you the truth, God. We DON’T perceive it. We’re working hard here and what we’re seeing are basically the same old things. The same church decline, the same aging church, the same church where we long for younger people to come. We also see the same political turmoil – the same decaying culture – the same loneliness and division that divides us. No, God, we don’t see a new thing, and we are tired!

Why do we not perceive the new thing God is doing? Why don’t we see it springing forth? THE REASON THAT WE DO NOT PERCEIVE WHAT GOD IS DOING IS THAT WE HAVE LOST THE ABILITY TO LISTEN DEEPLY TO GOD. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO PRAY.

In our Diocesan Congregational Development Institute initiative that now has been going on in this diocese for four years, we are learning about St. Benedict (often credited as the founder of western monasticism). In his monastic Rule Benedict counsels the monks to “Listen with the ear of the heart.” Ancient spirituality believed that the heart holds the truth, not just in some sort of metaphorical sense. They believed physically that the heart held wisdom. As the Age of Enlightenment began to influence thinking more, philosophers put more trust in the mind being the seat of the Truth. Later, and particularly in recent decades, we have decided that the mind is a mess, and science has begun to reorient us back to the truth of the heart being the seat of wisdom.

St. Benedict reminds us to “listen with the ear of the heart.” We are to listen in a deeper way than with the actual sense of hearing. With such listening, we will discern the movement of the spirit. **WHY IS IT SO HARD TO LISTEN?** Here’s why: The reason we are having such difficulty listening is because we are afraid. Fear prevents the ear of the heart from hearing the voice of God. And we have plenty of fear around us. Social media and news providers market in fear. Fear is constantly for sale. On the internet, fear is ubiquitous. And we are addicted to that fear. And because we are addicted to it, we are willing to spend money to feed that fear. And folks the likes of Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos and others depend on us to feed that addiction.

Have you ever heard the term **doom-scrolling**? What is that? Doomscrolling is the act of compulsively consuming negative news online, often through social media. Research has shown that a society prone to neuroticism will be attracted to this constant buffet of negative news...our brains crave stimulation; and doom-scrolling provides that stimulation. Fear is what is being marketed, and people react to that fear by being willing to spend money to protect themselves. Constant access to information provides stimulation, and if the stimulation is negative, fear is generated and people engage in actions to reduce that fear. The main action they engage in is spending money. So, keeping you afraid is in the interest of social media marketers so that you’ll keep spending money.

Thomas Keating, monk and priest credited along with others for pioneering the rebirth of the contemplative movement in the United States, defines a major human problem as the lack of self-worth. Many in our culture, he says, define self-worth as related to a sense of wealth or lack of it. And if we are being fed constant negative news that invites us to spend money to protect ourselves, then we are focused inwardly on that need for security. When we are trapped by fear and focused on spending money to protect ourselves, we become isolated. And this isolation leads a huge problem – LONELINESS. Loneliness has been described as the biggest disease of the 21st century.

Keating says the root of this loneliness is that we lack a sense of being beloved. The antidote is to experience being loved by spending time with the one who loves us.

As we confront the age-old problem of fear and loneliness, we need something new. We need a different, fresh approach. ***Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*** How can we access this new thing that God is doing? How can we even notice it? The answer is plain and simple: we must find a way in our complicated, chaotic world to spend time with the One who is doing the new thing. We will not notice the new thing unless we know the author of the new thing. That author is God.

Recently, I spent a week in retreat with a few other bishops at a Benedictine Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE. The retreat was facilitated by Br. James Dowd, a Benedictine monk who is on staff with the Diocese of Nebraska as the monk-in-residence. Brother James travels all over the diocese teaching congregations to pray. He is enacting the vision of Bishop Scott Barker who believes that effective leadership in the church must begin from a point of contemplative prayer. Episcopalians in Nebraska are learning to pray and are discovering that this life of prayer leads to the enactment of new things. The Diocese of Nebraska is one of the few dioceses in The Episcopal Church that increased in numbers last year.

This Benedictine Community (of which Brother James is a part) lives by a Rule of Life of Prayer, Service and Community. Prayer. Service. Community. One spends time in prayer, getting to know the Author of Life. As a result, one is then turned outward to offer service to those whom the Author of Life loves. This effort of Prayer and Service is contained within a community that supports and nourishes the members. Prayer. Service. Community. It's a simple Rule of Life that is catching fire in that area and producing new things.

Many in Southern Virginia are asking for a new vision. We are beginning to sense that God is doing a new thing among us and we want to be part of it. Over the course of the last year, the Standing Committee conducted a Mutual Ministry Review, assessing the ways in which the Diocesan Bishop and her staff work in ministry with various groups in the diocese. Later in this Annual Council you will hear a report of that Mutual Ministry Review. For now, the short summary is that while the people of Southern Virginia have deeply appreciated the Bishop's relational, pastoral approach to ministry, they are now ready to work with the Bishop to cast a vision that they can follow that will lead them more deeply into the Kingdom of God. The Executive Council of the diocese, after hearing a report of this Mutual Ministry Review, allocated funds in next year's budget for the purposes of discerning and implementing vision.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year to develop a new vision for Southern Virginia. I am excited to think that the new thing that God is shaping among us is a way of doing Church that will combat the fear and loneliness that holds our culture captive. And I'm beginning to wonder if the Benedictine pillars of Prayer, Service and Community might be a useful framework on which to construct our vision. Prayer. Service. Community. They're all related and you can't have one without the others.

When I was waiting at the gate in Omaha, NE for my flight home after the retreat, I read a news article that my husband had forwarded to me. He knows that I am interested in this epidemic of loneliness that permeates our culture. Many of you know that as well, as you have heard me preach sermons on the effects of loneliness on our spiritual, emotional and physical health. The article, forwarded by my husband, involved the Surgeon General's declaration that loneliness is the one serious epidemic confronting our world. Now this is not new news. The Surgeon General first declared this in 2023. This new article that I was reading, however, was reporting on the Surgeon General's antidote to the epidemic of loneliness. The Surgeon General had noted that in this era of increased technological advancement, people were more connected technologically than they had ever been before. However, these connections were only superficial; they were not deep, meaningful relationships. Furthermore, when people experienced loneliness, they turned inward and focused on themselves. They didn't understand that the answer to loneliness was to look beyond themselves. And so the Surgeon General proposed his own antidote to loneliness: Relationships. Service. Community.

I was absolutely transfixed by this idea. Here was the Surgeon General, hundreds of years later, proposing the same rule as St. Benedict. I had just come from a Benedictine Retreat focusing on Prayer, Service and Community to read the Surgeon General's exhortation to all of America (and in fact all of the world) to live by a rule of Relationships, Service, Community. Relationships (with God and each other) begin in prayer, turn us outward to service, and propel us into the support and nurture of community. What if our vision in Southern Virginia went back to the basics of Prayer, Service and Community in order to dispel the dark demons of fear and loneliness and usher in a fresh, new vision of the Kingdom of God?

Prayer begins in solitude; and in our current noisy, chaotic world solitude is grievously lacking. Thomas Merton said, "Society depends for its existence on the inviolable, personal solitude of its members. When society is made up of men who know no interior solitude it can no longer be held together by love: and consequently, it is held together by a violent and abusive authority. But when men are violently deprived of the solitude and freedom which are their due, the society in which they live becomes putrid, it festers with servility, resentment, and hate." (Thomas

Merton: *Thoughts in Solitude*) What if our Vision in Southern Virginia contained a plan for active teaching of prayer and Biblical literacy that grounded us in solitude?

Prayer is the activity by which we will change the world. In 1951 in the Diocese of New Hampshire, Bishop Charles F. “Todd” Hall stood up to address the Diocesan Annual Convention. At the time the country was facing the McCarthy “red scare,” the nuclear arms race, and the Korean War. Here is what he said:

“The world is on trial for its very life. We have so much to give to the life of the Christian Church in a baffled world that it hardly behooves us to be either careless or selfish in this call to bring others to Christ. Now, if ever, it can be said - a disfigured world demands transfigured lives.”

How do we get transfigured lives? Prayer. By spending time with the Creator of our lives.

Solitude and prayer are good, but we cannot remain there. Our vision must include extending ourselves outward in service. *Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward says this:* We cannot enjoy the spirituality that truly is of God unless we are enjoying the struggle for justice-love, compassion, nonviolence, and forgiveness in the world. And we cannot stay in the struggle unless we are drawing personal strength from God whom JESUS loved, however we may experience and image this sacred power. Prayer and Service are connected. You cannot have one without the other.

God’s people are desperate for God, and the Church has the answer. Our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe is fond of saying: “Friends, this is our lane! This is where the church can have an impact.” Churches can foster communities that connect people to God and connect people to each other. We are mandated now to be the Church in fresh ways that address this desperate need. When you ask people who are looking for churches what they are looking for, one of the most frequent answers is that they are looking for communities in which they can make new friends. And they are looking for communities where they can be included.

We have accomplished much in the last year. You will see many of these accomplishments highlighted throughout this Annual Council. By standing on the five initiatives of Rule of Life, Congregational Vitality and Connection, Racial Reconciliation, Stewardship and Creation Care, and Evangelism we have forged a viable path that now leads us to consider Prayer, Service and Community.

But we have much more to do because the epidemic of loneliness and fear still holds us in its grip. I look forward in the next year to working with many of you to craft a vision for Southern Virginia that will lead us into the new thing that God is already doing among us. While I do not intend to craft a vision on my own (I want your help), here are three things I think a vision should include:

Deeping of Spiritual Life (Prayer, Biblical Literacy)

We all yearn to pray. People frequently ask me how to pray. And I hear of yearning to know, fully know the Sacred Scriptures which undergird our faith. People really want to know and understand the Bible. After lunch, we will hear from our Council Speaker, Jay Sidebotham, about the signs of life in spiritually vital churches. And Biblical Literacy is one of those signs of life. Scripture ought to be embedded in all we do. And if we truly attend to Scripture, we will be led to prayer.

Intentional Crafting of a Plan for Diocesan Stewardship

Last year as we began to prepare the 2025 Diocesan budget, we conducted listening sessions on what you were wanting, needed and expecting from the Diocesan Office. You suggested ways in which we could help, and we appreciate that. I want to express my gratitude to our Treasurer, John Fogarty and our Director of Finance and Administration, Judy Dobson for facilitating these sessions. We expect these to continue in the coming months. One of the things we discussed is some intentional work in which we could engage to increase the number of parishes who are able to give the full 10% of the diocesan ask. We also recognized the need for and began work to draft an intentional plan for good stewardship of both diocesan and parochial resources, particularly real estate resources. And we heard about and recognized the need for increasing resources to fund diocesan initiatives around creation care, youth and young adult ministries (including Camp Chanco and college ministries) and congregational development.

Increased Resources for youth and young adult ministry.

There is an exciting revolution happening on college campuses these days. Many colleges and universities are seeing an increase in the practice of Christianity. Those members of the population called Gen Z (ages 16-26) are seeking guidance on how to develop meaning and purpose in their lives and they are turning to Christianity. And many in that group are looking to the ancient traditions inherent in Christianity to guide them – such ancient traditions as Prayer, Service, and Community. Marlo Slayback, national director of student programs at the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, told *The Fix* that students are desperately seeking guidance in life. “What has changed, I think, is the culture surrounding Gen Z. It’s a recipe for despair, hopelessness, disaffection,

alienation....They look around at our decaying culture and understandably feel alienated and lost at sea.” She said many students she interacts with crave traditional Christianity, which provides the guidance and structure that they have lacked. In a recent article in BestColleges.com: “Faith-based college and university enrollment grew by 82% from 1980-2020 — much faster than the national average of 57%.” An interesting anecdote that appeared on social media mentioned a class at the University of Notre Dame on Augustine of Hippo’s famous book, *Confessions*. The class room had 500 seats and on the first day filled to capacity.

It would seem then that the area of Church that is growing the fastest is among college and youth who are looking for guidance in our chaotic world. Historically, resources for college and youth ministries have always been underfunded in diocesan budgets, including our own. What if we intentionally looked for ways to boost resources toward a population that may hold the key to the new thing that God is doing among us?

Our world is chaotic and noisy. In many ways we are like the Venerable Bede who arrives in the Church to pray only to find that everything is destroyed. What are we to do? . We would do well to remember the Abbot’s words: “we will keep praying, we will care for the sick, we will pray, we will bury the dead, we will pray, we will feed the hungry, we will pray, and then, tomorrow, we will begin again.”

Jesus is standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd that gathers around him is hungry for guidance about how to navigate a chaotic world. The disciples have been fishing all night and caught nothing. They have been doing the same old thing to no avail and are now ready to turn in and give up. And Jesus appears among them and tells them to go deep. In obedience, they do as Jesus tells them. They cast their nets wide; and the ensuing abundance overwhelms them.

Jesus stands here with us. We are tired. We too have been fishing all night to no avail. And now Jesus tells us to go deep. Go deeper than you’ve ever gone before. The abundance is there. “I am pointing you to it,” Jesus says. “I do a new thing. Now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?” Once you go deep you will need the community around you to help you reel in the abundance. “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” Let us be like those disciples. Let us leave everything and follow Him. AMEN.

Following the Holy Eucharist, the Council adjourned for lunch. The Council then reconvened.

Introduction of Postulants & Candidates

Bishop Haynes introduced the following and asked them to come forward. They were greeted with applause.

Postulants for the Vocational Diaconate:

Mr. Allen Cersely – St. Michael’s, Bon Air
Ms. Allison Johnson – Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
Ms. Tracy Reynolds – Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk
Ms. Helen Sharpe-Williams – Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk

Postulants for the Priesthood:

The Rev. Jan Brown – Bruton Parish, Williamsburg
Ms. Robin Brown – St. Andrew’s, Norfolk – Yale Divinity School
Ms. Rebecca Crouch – Trinity, Portsmouth
Mr. Chris Ochillo – St. Augustine’s, Newport News
Ms. Allison Pace – Redeemer, Midlothian – St. Luke’s School of Theology at Sewanee
Ms. Cornelia Taylor – St. Cyprian’s, Hampton – St. Luke’s School of Theology at Sewanee

Candidates for the Priesthood:

Ms. Talley Banazek – Redeemer, Midlothian - VTS

St. Luke’s Kenbridge Shrine Presentation

Bishop Haynes introduced a video about the St. Luke's, Kenbridge Shrine Dedication. After the video, she thanked Ben Urquidi and Patsy Martin who produced this and all our Annual Council videos.

Keynote Speaker – the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Bishop Haynes welcomed our Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Jay Sidebotham to the stage.

She noted, “The Rev. Jay Sidebotham has served as a priest in the Episcopal Church for more than 30 years. He also enjoys creating artwork, including cartoons reflecting life in the church. Before ordination, he worked in an animation studio that produced Schoolhouse Rock cartoons and then as an art director in several advertising agencies. Some say he is still in advertising.”

DCDI Presentation

Bishop Haynes called on Canon Lynn Farlin and the Very Rev. Jeunee Godsey for a presentation from the Diocesan Church Development Institute, also known as DCDI.

A break followed this presentation.

Saint Paul's College 4 Life (SPC4Life) Presentation

Bishop Haynes introduced Mr. Chris Stephenson and Mr. Franchone Dukes, who gave a presentation from St. Paul's College 4 Life, transitioning to St. Paul's Leadership Institute.

Chanco on the James Presentation

A video was presented about our Diocesan Camp and Conference Center, Chanco on the James.

Creation Care Presentation

The Diocesan Creation Care team made a presentation.

Memorial Resolutions

The Very Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson presented the Memorial Resolutions. Members of the Memorials Committee presented abbreviated information about each individual, and the full text of each Memorial was published in the Council materials.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION The Reverend Ross Fulton Keener, Jr.

WHEREAS,	it has pleased God to call Ross Keener to his heavenly home on January 16, 2024; and,
WHEREAS,	Ross married Elizabeth Frances Rector on June 23, 1963; and,
WHEREAS,	he graduated from the University of Alabama in 1963, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree; and,
WHEREAS,	Ross had a career of over 20 years as an intelligence officer in the United States Army, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel before retiring; and,
WHEREAS,	Ross answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the University of the South School of Theology, from which he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1981; and,
WHEREAS,	he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on September 20, 1981 by The Rt. Rev. Claude Charles Vaché, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on April 21 st of the following year; and,
WHEREAS,	during his early years in the ordained ministry, Ross served in various capacities at Emmanuel Church in Chatham, VA and Trinity Church in Gretna, VA; and,

WHEREAS, in 1986 he accepted a call to serve as Rector at St. George's Church in Newport News, VA, a position he held for eleven years; and,

WHEREAS, Ross offered supply clergy duties to Glebe Church in the Driver area of Suffolk, VA, an arrangement which worked so well he accepted their call in 1998 to become Priest-in-Charge; and,

WHEREAS, during this time he emphasized the parish's need to be a service to the community, making the building space available free of charge to groups such as AA, the Boy Scouts, and area homeowners associations while at the same time being an advocate for ecumenical relationships with other churches in the Driver area; and,

WHEREAS, he was an enthusiastic supporter of Cursillo and a hands-on volunteer at the feeding ministry of St. Paul's Church in Newport News; and,

WHEREAS, he is remembered fondly for being extremely kind and generous and the Parish Administrator at the time called him the best person she had ever worked for; and,

WHEREAS, after seventeen years of faithful service, Ross retired from Glebe in 2005; and,

WHEREAS, after the death of his wife Elizabeth in 2005, Ross married his long-time friend Janet Turner in 2008; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including forty-two years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Ross Keener, Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extends 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, Janet Turner.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION **The Reverend Laughton Thomas**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Laughton Thomas to his heavenly home on February 2, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on July 27, 1945, in Buffalo, NY, the son of Laughton Flowers and Ormah Dennis Thomas; and,

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school he attended Howard University prior to enlisting in the United States Navy; and,

WHEREAS, Laughton married Pamela Reid in 1970, a union which produced two sons, David and Michael; and,

WHEREAS, after serving his country for four years, Laughton returned to Western New York and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Buffalo in 1973; and,

WHEREAS, Laughton answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the General Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1978; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 3, 1978 by The Rt. Rev. Albert Wienche Van Duzar, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on December 1 of that year; and,

WHEREAS, Laughton served congregations in New Brunswick and Plainfield, New Jersey from 1978 through 1989; and,

WHEREAS, during this time Laughton served as a Chaplain in the United States Naval Reserve, eventually retiring from this work in 1998 with the rank of Commander; and,

WHEREAS, he accepted a call to serve as Vicar of St. Paul's Memorial Chapel in Lawrenceville, VA in 1989; and,

WHEREAS, at this time he also accepted a call to serve as Chaplain at St. Paul's College and,

WHEREAS, Laughton concluded his ministry in the Diocese of Southern Virginia in 2002 when he accepted a call to serve at St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Tallahassee, FL; and,

WHEREAS, he married Sarah Sams on June 16, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, Laughton became the first African-American to serve as Canon in the Diocese of Florida and in 2020 was awarded the Bishop's Cross for his "faithful service to the Episcopal Church and his community"; and,

WHEREAS, Laughton was preceded in death by his first wife, Pamela; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Sharon, sons David and Michael and their spouses, his brother Ronald, three stepchildren, seventeen grandchildren, and a host of additional family; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including forty-five years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Laughton Thomas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extends 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 **The Reverend Donald Bell Harris**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Donald Harris to his heavenly home on March 16, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on March 8, 1936, in Boston, MA, the son of Robert and Ruth Harris; and,

WHEREAS, Don earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of William & Mary in 1957, and also undertook studies at the University of Iowa (1958), Claremont College (1960), and the University of California (1966, 1969); and,

WHEREAS, Don answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, from which he earned a Master of Divinity degree with honors in 1964; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on January 10, 1964 by The Rt. Rev. George Richard Millard, and to the Priesthood on July 11 of that same year by The Rt. Rev. Robert B. Gooden; and,

WHEREAS, Don capped off a memorable year by marrying Faye Ruth Voss on November 28, 1964, a union which would produce three children; and,

WHEREAS, he served as a priest in congregations in Colorado, South Carolina, and New York; and,

WHEREAS, he accepted a call to serve as the Chaplain at the United States Naval Hospital from 1984-1986 and as a Senior Chaplain at the United States Coast Guard base on Governors Island, NY from 1986-1988; and,

WHEREAS, in 1971, Don founded CREDO, a program to provide community support for military personnel and their families; and,

WHEREAS, in 1988, Donald accepted a call to serve as Chaplain to the College of William & Mary, a position he held through 1990; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990 he accepted a call to serve as Associate Rector at St. Martin's Parish in Williamsburg, a position he held until 2003; and,

WHEREAS, in 1993 he completed course work at the Institute of Clinical Theodicy at Regent University and then began a teaching career at this school which lasted from 1994-2001; and,

WHEREAS, he authored several published works including *That's How the Light Gets In: A CREDO of Friendship* (1994), *CREDO: Ministering in the Twilight of the 20th Century*, and *The Chaplain as Fisherman and Shepherd*; and,

WHEREAS, in 1996, Don and his family founded La Tienda to introduce Americans to Spanish people, culture, and cuisine, an effort promoting cross-cultural understanding for which the King of Spain awarded to him His Majesty's Official Cross of the Order of Civil Merit; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Ruth, three sons, Timothy, Jonathan, and Christopher, their spouses, and six grandchildren: now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Donald Harris; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extends 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 **The Reverend William Ogden Jones**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call William “Bill” Jones to his heavenly home on April 17, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on July 19, 1937, in Atlanta, GA, the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Ogden Jones; and,

WHEREAS, Bill earned degrees from Hendrix College, the University of Arkansas, and The American College; and,

WHEREAS, he married Gaye Shinall on May 15, 1957, a union which would produce three children; and,

WHEREAS, Bill enjoyed a successful career in the life insurance industry; and,

WHEREAS, he answered God’s call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Local Formation Program of the Diocese of Southern Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 15, 1989 by The Rt. Rev. Claude Charles Vaché; and,

WHEREAS, he served as a deacon at St. David’s Church in North Chesterfield, VA from 1993-1996, at Trinity Church in Milwaukee, WI from 1999-2002, and at the Church of the Redeemer in Midlothian, VA from 2002-2007 before returning to St. David’s from 2006-2021; and,

WHEREAS, Bill served several different roles on the board of the North American Association for the Diaconate, including as its president from 1997-1999; and,

WHEREAS, he was appointed Archdeacon of the Diocese of Southern Virginia in 2008, a position he filled with faithfulness, passion, and wisdom; and,

WHEREAS, Bill received the Ann and Don King Community Service Leadership Award in 2007 from Home Again, an agency for homeless adults and children; and,

WHEREAS, Bill’s ministry to the homeless, prisoners, and fellow deacons was, what one friend described as being “a walking advertisement for Servant Ministry”; and,

WHEREAS, he was especially adept at discerning in others a call to the ordained ministry, encouraging them to pursue it as a vocation; and,

WHEREAS, he enjoyed a good story, a good cigar, and cheering on the men’s basketball teams of the University of Arkansas Razorbacks and Virginia Commonwealth University; and,

WHEREAS, following the death of his wife Gaye, a friend introduced him to Lynn, another avid fan of the V.C.U. Rams, and this mutual interest sparked a relationship which culminated in marriage on November 10, 2007; and,

WHEREAS, Bill was preceded in death by his first wife, Gaye, their daughter, Allison Goris, and his brother Benjamin Jones, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Nancy Lynn Jones, his daughters, Hope King and Jenny Hudley, their spouses, ten grandchildren, and four great grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including twenty-four years in the ordained ministry, offered to God’s glory by The Rev. William O. Jones; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extends 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 Caroline Brackenridge Talbot

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Caroline Brackenridge Talbot to her heavenly home on April 15, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, this native of Norfolk, Virginia was born on October 8, 1924, the daughter of Milton and Cornelia Talbot; and,

WHEREAS, she was a proud alumna of the College of William & Mary, graduating with a degree in Fine Arts; and,

WHEREAS, she joined the war effort by driving a Red Cross ambulance during World War II; and,

WHEREAS, Caroline married William F. Egelhoff, a union which produced four children; and,

WHEREAS, as the spouse of a priest, she contributed to the common life of Holy Trinity Church in Onancock, Virginia and helped to found St. Martin’s Church in Williamsburg, VA; and,

WHEREAS, she was always a willing, eager and able volunteer, especially in the Williamsburg area community outreach programs such as Head Start, a battered women’s shelter, teen

homes, the League of Women Voters, and the Board of Visitors at the College of William & Mary; and,
WHEREAS, her life-long passion for education was demonstrated by her endowing scholarships at Granby High School in Norfolk, VA and the Eastern Virginia Medical School while also endowing a professorship at the College of William & Mary; and,
WHEREAS, Caroline expressed her generosity and love by donating her historic family home, Talbot Hall in Norfolk, to the Episcopal Church, a site which for many years provided housing for our bishops and offices for our diocesan staff; and,
WHEREAS, Caroline is preceded in death by her son, William; and,
WHEREAS, she is survived by her children, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Thomas, eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia give thanks for the loving and faithful witness offered to the Glory of God by Caroline Brackenridge Talbot; 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.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION The Reverend Jane Flaherty

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Jane Flaherty to her heavenly home on May 16, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, she was born on June 29, 1939, in Alton, IL, the daughter of Francis and Julia Flaherty, and raised by her aunt, Rose Schulz Collins, after the death of her parents; and,
WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Notre Dame College in 1961, a Master of Arts degree from St. Louis University in 1971, and a Doctor of Education degree from Rutgers University in 1978; and,
WHEREAS, she had a rich and varied career in the field of education, serving in parochial schools in the St. Louis area before relocating to New Jersey to work in public schools and colleges; and,
WHEREAS, she was a nun in the Roman Catholic Church prior to joining the Episcopal Church after discerning a call to the priesthood; and,
WHEREAS, Jane answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in General Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity degree in 1991; and,
WHEREAS, she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 6, 1991 by The Rt. Rev. George Phelps Mellick Bleshaw, who then ordained her to the priesthood on February 15th of the following year; and,
WHEREAS, she served as an Assistant to the Rector at Trinity Church in Morristown, NJ prior to accepting a call in 1995 to be the Rector of St. Christopher's Church in Portsmouth, VA, a position she held until her retirement in 2002; and,
WHEREAS, while at St. Christopher's she helped the congregation to heal and move forward after it experienced profound inner turmoil during the ministry of her predecessor; and,
WHEREAS, she served as our diocesan Ecumenical Officer from 1992-2002; and,
WHEREAS, Jane was preceded in death by her parents, aunt and uncle; and,
WHEREAS, she is survived by her sister, Mary Anne Magee and her husband Pat, cousins Janet Francis and Jim Scoggins and their spouses, as well as children and grandchildren of these marriages; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-two years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Jane Flaherty; 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 sister.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION The Reverend Elizabeth Felicetti

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Elizabeth Felicetti to her heavenly home on August 17, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, she was born in Phoenix, AZ on February 23, 1968; and,
WHEREAS, she married Gary Felicetti on October 19, 1996; and,
WHEREAS, Elizabeth answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which she earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2007; and,
WHEREAS, she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 9, 2007 by the Rt. Rev. John Clark Buchanan, and a Priest on December 8, 2007 by the Rt. Rev. John Clark Buchanan; and,
WHEREAS, she served as the Assistant Rector at Old Donation, Virginia Beach prior to accepting a call to be the Rector of St. David's Church in Richmond, VA in 2011; and,
WHEREAS, she enjoyed studying the Old Testament, Biblical Hebrew, and characters of the Bible such as John the Baptist whom, next to Jesus, she claimed as her favorite biblical character; and,
WHEREAS, Elizabeth was known to be outspoken at times, which reflected her strong passion for being that voice of repentance and injustice wherever she saw it needed; and,
WHEREAS, because of her passion for the language, she spent part of one summer in Sudan teaching Hebrew; and,
WHEREAS, Elizabeth served the Diocese of Southern Virginia in many capacities, including President of the Standing Committee and Fresh Start facilitator; and,
WHEREAS, she earned a Master of Fine Arts in Writing from Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky; and,
WHEREAS, she authored *Unexpected Abundance: The Fruitful Lives of Women Without Children* and co-authored *Irreverent Prayers: How to Talk to God When You're Seriously Sick*, with the Rev. Samantha Vincent-Alexander; and,
WHEREAS, Elizabeth's essays and book reviews were published in *The Atlantic*, *The Christian Century*, and *Kirkus Reviews*; and,
WHEREAS, she contributed to the Westminster John Knox's preaching commentary *Connections*; and,
WHEREAS, Elizabeth loved birdwatching and walking her dog, Pepper; and,
WHEREAS, she enjoyed playing the ukulele and introducing others to its mellow, meditative melodies; and,
WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband, Gary; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including seventeen years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Elizabeth Felicetti; 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 husband, Gary.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION **The Reverend Margery Eldredge Howell**

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Marjory Howell to her heavenly home on August 25, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, she was born on August 30, 1949, in Pulaski, VA, the daughter of Asner and Frances Howell; and,
WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1972; and,
WHEREAS, she held a wide variety of jobs over the course of her work life, including serving as a transit police officer in Norfolk, VA; and,
WHEREAS, Margery answered God's call to the ordained ministry and graduated from the formation program of the Diocese of Southern Virginia; and,
WHEREAS, she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 9, 2007 by The Rt. Rev. John Clark Buchanan; and,
WHEREAS, she served as a Deacon at St. Francis Church in Virginia Beach from 2007-2009, St. Christopher's Church in Portsmouth, VA from 2009-2015, and Good Samaritan Church in Virginia Beach from 2015-2018; and,
WHEREAS, Margery lived into the passion of her particular calling by serving as the chaplain of Thurston Hall Nursing Facility in Norfolk, VA and Beacon Shores Nursing and

Rehabilitation Center in Virginia Beach, VA, where her ministries were greatly enhanced by Phoebe, her beloved therapy dog; and,
WHEREAS, she is survived by her sisters, Frances Mazza and Austin White, their spouses, her nephew Christopher White and his daughter, Scarlett; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including seventeen years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Margery Howell; 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 sisters.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Charles L. Farrar

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Charles Farrar to his heavenly home on November 29, 2024; and,
WHEREAS, he was born on May 11, 1947 in South Hill, VA, the son of Theodore Roosevelt and Elizabeth Taylor Farrar; and,
WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business from Virginia State University in 1970; and,
WHEREAS, after college, Charles served for two years in the United States Army; and,
WHEREAS, after leaving the military, he was hired by BellSouth Telephone Company, becoming one of the first African Americans to serve in its management; and,
WHEREAS, during this time, Charles married Shirley Williams, a union which resulted in the birth of Marcus Farrar, a renowned musician; and,
WHEREAS, Charles was an accomplished artist who specialized in woodworking, with prized pieces being held in personal, corporate, and museum collections across our nation; and,
WHEREAS, he used a piece of wood from a tree at his childhood home from which his mother strung a clothes line and fashioned it into an urn to contain his remains upon his death; and,
WHEREAS, Charles' interest in family history and genealogy lead him in 1983 to work with three cousins to organize a huge family reunion; a gathering which led to the establishment of a scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to college-bound family members; and,
WHEREAS, in 2003, he helped to create The James Solomon Russell Scholars Program for religious and philosophical studies at St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA; and,
WHEREAS, Charles completed Master's level work in The Archbishop of Canterbury's Examination in Theology Program, enabling him to advance his passion for history by working on a PhD in the field of Anglican Church History; and,
WHEREAS, in 2011, Charles married Hilda Simmons Rainey, whom he had known since elementary school and together they decided to move back to the area of their childhood, South Hill; and,
WHEREAS, Charles served our church and diocese by being a board member of The Historic Society of the Episcopal Church and the co-chair of our diocesan Repairers of the Breach Commission; and,
WHEREAS, he lived out his faith through leadership in the community by being a lifetime member of the NAACP and member and former chairman of Planned Parenthood; and,
WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Hilda, mother-in-law Rosa Lee Simmons, sons Marcus and Glenn, their spouses, sister Marian, three brothers, Curtis, Steven, and Leslie, and their spouses; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service and Christian witness offered to God's glory by Charles L. Farrar; and be it further
RESOLVED, that this Council extends 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

The Reverend Doctor Jacqueline Segar Gravatt

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Jacqueline Segar Gravatt (known as Segar) to her eternal rest on December 23, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, Segar was born on June 3, 1949, in Blackstone, Virginia, to John Segar Gravatt and Isbell Turnbull Gravatt; and,

WHEREAS, Segar began her professional journey in the 1970s as a recreational therapist, teaching horseback riding to children with disabilities at the Arthur Godfrey Equestrian Center in Loudon County, VA, and later worked as activities director at the Zuni Presbyterian Training Center for adults with disabilities in Zuni, VA; and,

WHEREAS, sensing a deeper call to serve others, Segar entered Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, and graduated with a Doctor of Divinity degree, later continuing her studies at the Episcopal Seminary in Alexandria, VA; and,

WHEREAS, Segar was ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church and served as a permanent Deacon for 15 years, ministering with great care as a chaplain at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital and Westminster-Canterbury, among other Tidewater settings; and,

WHEREAS, Segar was ordained as a Priest in 1999, becoming the first woman to be ordained in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, and joined All Saints' Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach, VA, where she served as Associate Rector until her retirement in 2016; and,

WHEREAS, Segar was deeply involved in the Cursillo movement, offering her time and energy to support the spiritual growth of others, particularly youth, mentoring those in discernment and newly ordained, and spreading God's love and joy throughout her community; and,

WHEREAS, Segar's love of life, laughter, and people was a cornerstone of her ministry, and she desired to be remembered for her unwavering love of God and for all the lives she touched through her compassionate service; and,

WHEREAS, Segar is survived by her family, friends, colleagues, and the many communities she served, all of whom are left to cherish her memory; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the life and ministry of The Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Segar Gravatt, whose dedication to God and service to others has left a profound and lasting impact; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extends its deepest sympathy to Segar's family and friends and prays for comfort and peace for all who mourn her passing; 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 family.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Dr. Robert L. Satcher, Sr.

WHEREAS, it has pleased God to call Robert Satcher to his heavenly home on December 31, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, he was born on September 18, 1937, in Anniston, Alabama, one of eight children born to Deacon Wilmer and Anna Mattie Satcher; and,

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Alabama State University, a Master of Science degree from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. in Radiation Science degree from Oregon State University; and,

WHEREAS, while a student at Alabama State, he joined the Episcopal Church and over the course of his life was active in parishes in Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee, along with St. Cyprian's Church in Hampton, VA and St. Paul's Memorial Chapel in Lawrenceville, VA in our own diocese; and,

WHEREAS, during his undergraduate years, Robert participated in the Montgomery Bus Boycott (after which he wrote an essay reflecting on the experience that remains recommended reading for the Civil Rights Movement) as well as the Selma Voter Registration drive; and,

WHEREAS, he pursued postdoctoral studies at the University of Michigan, Princeton University, Tufts University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and,

WHEREAS, Robert was a Professor of Chemistry and Physics for 24 years at St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, serving this fine institution in numerous additional capacities including as its President from 2007-2012; and,

WHEREAS, prior to joining the faculty of St. Paul's College, he held leadership positions at Hampton University, Fisk University, and Voorhees College; and,

WHEREAS, he was the recipient of awards from a wide variety of groups, including Oregon State University, the Boy Scouts of America, and St. Paul's College; and,

WHEREAS, his civic involvement ranged from the U.S. Department of Education to the Boy Scouts to Academic Societies to appointments in our Commonwealth to leadership roles in Lawrenceville and Brunswick County; and,

WHEREAS, Robert is remembered as being a distinguished educator, caring mentor, lifelong civil rights advocate, and faithful Episcopalian; and,

WHEREAS, Robert was preceded in death by his brothers, John, Charles, and Harry Satcher, and by sisters, Olivia Ann Pearson and Lottie Bea Washington; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years Marian Hanna Satcher; their children Serena Satcher, Robert Satcher, Jr., Rodney Levi Satcher, Robin Leon Satcher and their spouses; two siblings, David Satcher, Larry Satcher and their spouses; two grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service and Christian witness offered to God's glory by Dr. Robert L. Satcher, Sr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extends 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, Marian.

Following the presentation of the Memorial Resolutions, Bishop Haynes led the Council in a moment of silence, followed by prayer. The Bishop then entertained a motion and a second to approve the Memorial resolutions as published. The motion passed.

Ridley Foundation – David Teschner Award

Bishop Haynes called on the Rev. Julia Messer-Croteau for a presentation from the Ridley Foundation.

Episcopal Youth Community Presentation

Bishop Haynes called on Grae Fentress for a presentation from the Episcopal Youth Community.

Ecumenism in the Diocese

Bishop Haynes called on the Rev. Tom Haynes to make a presentation on Ecumenism in the Diocese.

Deacons Formation Collaborative Presentation

Bishop Haynes called on Deacon Carter Sinclair and the Rev. Mimi Lacy for a presentation on the vocational diaconate.

Bishop's Mutual Ministry Review Presentation

Bishop Haynes called on the Rev. Grant Stokes, outgoing President of the Standing Committee, for a report on the Bishop's Mutual Ministry Review that was recently completed.

2025 Budget

The Bishop called on Mr. John Fogarty, Diocesan Treasurer, and Ms. Judy Dobson, Director of Finance & Administration, to present the 2025 budget. Following their presentation, John Fogarty moved the adoption of the 2025 Budget, there was a second from the floor, and the motion was passed.

Courtesy Resolutions

Bishop Haynes called on the Rev. Keith Emerson to present 2 Courtesy Resolutions.

COURTESY RESOLUTION
The Reverend Canon James Harlan

- WHEREAS,** James Harlan began his service as Canon for Evangelism of the Diocese of Southern Virginia in 2021; and,
- WHEREAS,** he brought to our diocese a wealth of experience, having served as parish priest in several dioceses, a board member of Forward Movement, adjunct faculty member at Iliff Theological Seminary, chaplain in the Naval Reserve, and a variety of positions in the dioceses in which he was resident prior to his ministry in Southern Virginia; and,
- WHEREAS,** James assisted congregations and vestries with various aspects of congregational development, including strategic planning, leadership development, and Mutual Ministry Reviews; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was a great resource to assisting our bishop in the launch of The Diocesan Congregational Development Institute, a formation initiative aimed at training clergy and lay teams from a congregation to undertake a two-year journey to learn and develop new skills for church leadership as well as personal and professional growth; and,
- WHEREAS,** he brought great energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to his work and ministry; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was a wonderful colleague to fellow diocesan staff members and clergy; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was supported in his work by his faithful wife Elizabeth; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 2023 he accepted a call to serve as the Dean of the American Cathedral in Paris, a giant step toward fulfilling a dream of one day living in retirement in France; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia offers its deep thanks to James Harlan for his dedication and service to our diocese; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be given to James as a gesture of appreciation for a job well done.

COURTESY RESOLUTION
The Reverend Canon Roy Hoffman

- WHEREAS,** Roy Hoffman began his service as Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Southern Virginia in 2019; and,
- WHEREAS,** he ably served first Bishop Jay Magness, then Bishop Susan Haynes in this capacity; and,
- WHEREAS,** he began his time with us during a period of leadership transition followed closely by the immense challenge of navigating the rocky waters of the COVID pandemic; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as a Navy Chaplain for 20 years prior to coming to our diocese; and,
- WHEREAS,** during his tenure, Roy assisted more than sixty congregations in their searches for new clergy leadership; and,
- WHEREAS,** the significant shortage of clergy seeking a new call has made the ministry of transition increasingly challenging, Roy, along with our bishop and diocesan staff, created a culture where our diocese is perceived across the country as being a very positive and healthy place to live into one's ordination vows; and,
- WHEREAS,** he dealt skillfully with matters of clergy discipline while at the same time provided invaluable support and guidance to clergy and congregations experiencing various degrees of conflict; and,
- WHEREAS,** Roy was highly valued by his colleagues on the diocesan staff; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 2024, Roy transitioned himself to the phase of ministry known as 'retirement'; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that this 133rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia offer its deep thanks to Roy Hoffman for his dedication and service to our diocese; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be given to Roy as a gesture of appreciation for a job well done.

The motions were moved, seconded and passed.

Your Diocesan Staff Presentation

Bishop Haynes presented a video highlighting the services of our Diocesan staff, and in particular, focusing on the partnership they offer congregations in the Diocese.

Introduction of Diocesan Staff

Following the video, the Bishop introduced our Diocesan staff:

Susan Allen – Program & Benefits Administrator
Don Carlson – Missioner for Youth and College Ministries
Eve Dabney – Finance Officer
Judy Dobson – Director of Finance & Administration
Canon Lynn Farlin – Canon for Formation
Canon Willis Foster – Canon for Transformation
Canon Jeunee Godsey – Canon for Congregational Development
Gareth Kalfas – Missioner for Camp & Retreat Ministries
Patsy Martin – Director of Communications
Leah Sicignano – Bishop's Executive Secretary
Canon Mary Thorpe – Canon to the Ordinary
Ben Urquidi – Media Specialist
Liz Villanueva – Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary
Ross Wright – Director of Vocational Ministries

Following their introduction, the Council offered a hearty round of applause for them.

Closing Worship

The Bishop then led Closing Worship, offering the following prayer:

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray that the rest of this day may be holy, peaceful and full of your presence. We pray that the work we have done and the people we have met today may bring us and the entire diocese closer to you.

Continue to equip us that we may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice. We pray that you will sustain our faith and hope and especially the faith and hope of those who are lonely, oppressed and anxious. Give us a hunger for you, and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom as we pray in the words our Savior Christ taught us:

Our Father....

Council Adjourns

The Rev. Michael Stone reminded all to return their electronic voting devices. Then declaring that the business of Council had been discharged, he then moved for the Adjournment of Council. There was a second from the floor, and the motion to Adjourn was passed at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Grimm
Diocesan Secretary