



## **Delegate Packet**

**The Diocese of South Carolina**  
The 234<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

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**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**P.O. BOX 761, PORT ROYAL, SC 2993**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your 234th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. As Dean of the Southern Deanery, it is my delight to have you join us for this annual “family reunion.” Our deanery is composed of eight congregations. Our boundaries stretch from Beaufort to Hilton Head Island to the Georgia border and west to Denmark (the town).

We gather at an exciting time in the life of our diocese to explore the opportunities and challenges that are before us as we share Good News, inviting all to journey with us. During our three-day sojourn, we will address the various dimensions of our collective lives including the day-to-day business of running the diocese. We will also focus on the spiritual journey we travel together. With our convention theme, taken from the words of Psalm 107, we will “...explore the wonders of the deep.”

Our time of worship, discussion and contemplation will be guided by the Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, who will be our preacher at the opening Eucharist and by our keynote speaker the Rev. Canon Mpho Tutu von Furth.

My thanks to the clergy, staff and members of All Saints, Hilton Head Island, the Bishop’s staff, and the countless volunteers across our deanery for all their work in making this convention a reality.

My prayer is that our time together, connecting with friends old and new, will be a blessed time filled with joy and energy, hope and renewal.

Welcome to the Southern Deanery. Welcome to convention.

Peace,

The Very Rev. Roy Tripp  
Dean



## The Diocese of South Carolina

The 234th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Sonesta Resort & All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head Island (The Southern Deanery)

***Thursday, November 21, 2024***

<b>1:00 pm</b>	Registration begins and continues until 2:45 pm	
<b>3:00 pm</b>	First Business Session: Call to Order	The Right Reverend Woodliff-Stanley
	Appointment of Parliamentarians	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Presentation of Agenda	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Appointment of Convention Committees	
	Committee on Admission of New Parishes and Missions	
	Committee on Constitutions and Canons	
	Committee on Finance	
	Committee on Elections	
	Committee on Resolutions	
	Committee on Credentials	
	Committee on Necrology	
	Committee on Nominations	
	Report of the Clergy Credentials Committee	The Reverend Deacon Lee Ragsdale
	Certification of Quorum	Ms. Diane Wilson, Secretary of Convention
	Election of the Treasurer	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Confirmation the Secretary	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Appointment of Regional Deans	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Welcome to Special Guests	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley

First Report of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons	Ms. Melinda Kelley Vice-Chancellor
A Litany of Scripture and Prayer	The Reverend Adam Shoemaker Ms. Vermelle Simmons Ms. Gail DeCosta
The Bishop's Address	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
Musical Response	Canon Lonnie Hamilton III

**5:30 pm**      Opening Eucharist at All Saints, Hilton Head Island; reception to follow

***Friday, November 22, 2024***

<b>8:00 am</b>	Registration resumes until 8:45 am	
<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer	
<b>9:10 am</b>	Second Business Session: Call to Order	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
Report of the Lay Credentials Committee		Ms. Laura Marshall
Report of the Nominating Committee		The Reverend Rob Spainhour
Elections		Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
Keynote Address		The Reverend Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth
<i>Break</i>		
Panel Discussion: “Sounding the Depths in Today’s World”		The Most Reverend Sean Rowe Canon Tutu van Furth Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
First Report of the Elections Committee <i>Second ballot if needed</i>		The Reverend Denise Trogdon
General Convention Resolutions Referred to Dioceses		Ms. Wilson
Report of the Chancellor		Mr. Skip Utsey

<b>12:00 pm</b>	Lunch <i>St. Christopher will present an optional session, "Getting to Know Your Camp and Conference Center," in the main Convention room.</i>	
<b>12:45 pm</b>	Canon Tutu van Furth Book Signing (in the Gifts of Grace popup bookstore)	
<b>1:15 pm</b>	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graeme Mortimer Evelyn and Grace Wingfield: Calvary Icons Project</li> <li>• Braver Angels: Depolarizing Ourselves</li> <li>• St. Christopher Camp &amp; Conference Center: Ecojustice &amp; Creation Care</li> </ul>	
<b>2:15 pm</b>	<i>Break</i>	
<b>2:30 pm</b>	Third Business Session: Call to Order	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Second Report of the Elections Committee <i>Third ballot if needed</i>	The Reverend Denise Trogdon
	Recognition of Postulants, New Clergy, and Leaders	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Transitions in Ministry (TiM) Report	The Very Reverend Joseph Smith The Reverend Katie Presley
	Recognition of Institutions	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report from Voorhees University	Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, President
	Report from Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community	Ms. Sarah Tipton President and Chief Executive Officer
	Greetings from the Diocese of the Dominican Republic and Recognition of Visiting Clergy	The Right Reverend Moisés Quezada Mota
	Dominican Development Group (DDG) Report	Ms. Christy Wallace
	<i>Break</i>	
	Third Report of the Elections Committee <i>Fourth ballot if needed</i>	The Reverend Denise Trogdon
	Report of the Standing Committee	The Reverend Adam Shoemaker
	Confirmation of Appointments to Disciplinary Board and Related Offices	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Confirmation of Appointments to the Commission on Ministry	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley

Second Report of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons	Ms. Melinda Kelley
Report of the Treasurer	Mr. Barry Ronan
Report on the Strategic Vision and Parish Giving	The Reverend Canon Ryan Currie Canon Andrea McKellar The Reverend Michael Crandall
Report of the Diocesan Council on the Budget	The Reverend Pam Fahrner
<b>4:30 pm</b>	Break <i>Members of the Standing Committee—including those newly elected—will meet briefly (location to be announced)</i>
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Beachside BBQ Dinner – at the Sonesta Resort

***Saturday, November 23, 2024***

<b>8:30 am</b>	Registration resumes until 8:45 am	
<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer Reflection from Canon Tutu van Furth	
<b>9:30 am</b>	Fourth Business Session: Call to Order	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report of the Youth Commission	The Reverend Will Berry
	Report from St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center	The Reverend Laura Rezac
	First Report of the Committee on Resolutions	Ms. Ellen Hardin
	Greetings from the Province of West Africa	The Most Reverend Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith
	Report of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission	Ms. Gail DeCosta The Reverend Adam Shoemaker
	Presentation on the Calvary Icons Project	Mr. Graeme Mortimer Evelyn Ms. Grace Wingfield
	“Becoming Beloved Community” Spotlight Award	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	<i>Break</i>	

Second Report of the Committee on Resolutions:  
Courtesy Resolutions

The Reverend Ross Tortora  
The Reverend Brooks Boylan

Report of the Committee on Necrology

The Reverend Dow Sanderson

Invitation to the 235th Convention

Benediction & Adjournment



## **Committee Appointments 234th Annual Diocesan Convention**

### Constitution and Canons

Ms. Melinda Lucka Kelley, chair  
The Rev. Rob Donehue  
The Rev. Philip Linder  
The Rev. Michael Shaffer  
Mr. Skip Utsey (ex-officio)

### Credentials – Clergy

The Rev. Lee Ragsdale, chair  
The Rev. Eric Bash  
The Rev. Sr. Miriam Elizabeth (Faith E.) Bledsoe, OSH

### Credentials – Lay

Ms. Laura Marshall, chair  
Ms. Veronica Hinkson  
Mr. Brandon Lynn

### Elections (host priest, two non-voting tellers)

The Rev. Denise Trogdon, Chair  
Ms. Susan Grimes  
Mr. Charlie Jordan

### Finance

Mr. Barry Ronan, Chair, ex-officio  
Mr. Bill Beak  
Ms. Stephenie Benes  
The Rev. Pam Fahrner  
Mr. Mike Jefferson  
Cn. Andrea McKellar, ex-officio

### Necrology

The Rev. Dow Sanderson

### New Parishes and Missions

The Rev. Jennie Olbrych  
The Rev. Joseph Smith  
Mr. Rick Stall  
Mr. Skip Utsey, ex officio  
Ms. Melinda Kelley, ex officio

### Nominations

The Rev. Rob Spainhour, Chair  
Ms. Gail DeCosta  
The Very Rev. Michael Shaffer  
Mr. Mike Singletary  
The Rev. Bill Watson  
Mr. Woody Rutter  
The Rev. Eunice Dunlap  
Ms. Deb Harris

### Resolutions

The Rev. Brooks Boylan  
Ms. Ellen Hardin, Chair  
The Rev. Ross Tortora  
Ms. Elizabeth Walker  
Mr. Skip Utsey, ex officio  
Ms. Melinda Kelley, ex officio

# **THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **Summary Report of the Constitution and Canons Committee for the 234<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

### **Committee Members:**

**The Rev. Canon Phil Linder, Canon to the Ordinary**

**The Very Rev. Michael Shaffer**

**The Rev. Canon Rob Donehue**

**Bert “Skip” Utsey, Chancellor**

**Melinda L. Kelley, Vice Chancellor**

- 1) The proposed Constitutional changes to Articles VI and XII that received First Reading approval will be presented this year for Second Reading.
- 2) A newly proposed Constitutional change to Article IX, Standing Committee, is being presented for First Reading vote. This proposed change will allow clergy to be members of Standing Committee, and will allow Standing Committee to adopt Bylaws.
- 3) A canonical change in Canon I.15, Diocesan Council, proposes to allow clergy to be members of Council.

# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## Summary Report of the Constitution and Canons Committee for the 234<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention

### Constitution

**The Proposed Amendments to Articles VI and XII of the Constitution, highlighted in red, received First Reading Approval by majority vote in Convention, November of 2023, and will be presented to Convention in 2024 for Second Reading, by two-thirds vote of each Order.**

**The Proposed Amendments to Article IX of the Constitution, highlighted in red, will be presented for First Reading Approval by majority vote of each Order in Convention, November of 2024.**

### ARTICLE VI

#### Procedures Pertaining to Conventions

*Section 1.* Each parish and mission in union with the Convention shall be entitled to lay representation in the Convention. A parish shall be represented by not more than four laypersons and a mission shall be represented by not more than two laypersons. The election of said lay delegates shall take place in each parish and each mission in union with the Convention, by ballot, from among the confirmed adult communicants in good standing, at a meeting of the members thereof. An equal number of lay delegates may be elected to serve as alternates or substitutes for such lay delegates so elected. A parish or mission shall not be entitled to vote if it has not filed its Parochial Reports by the **February March** 1st preceding the Convention, unless they be accorded such privilege by a majority vote of the Convention.

*Section 2.* Except as otherwise provided, the terms of office of delegates so elected shall continue until their successors are elected. Each parish and mission shall file a report naming the delegates and alternate delegates with the secretary of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention.

*Section 3.* The presiding officer of the Convention shall call on the Credentials Committee for a report of the clerical and lay delegates entitled to seat, voice and vote at the Convention.

*Section 4.* When the Convention shall have been called to order, the list of the Clergy of the Convention shall be presented to the Convention, and the names of the clerical members shall be called by the Secretary. Immediately thereafter the secretary shall proceed to call the names of the lay delegates. If a quorum is found present, the presiding officer shall declare the

Convention duly organized. Provided, however, that if the clerical and lay delegates have been registered on the opening day of the Convention and such registration is then in the hands of the secretary, said roll calls may be dispensed with. If a question be made, the right of any clerical or lay delegates shall be determined according to the provisions of this Constitution.

*Section 5.* A majority of the clergy, who are serving in a parish or mission, and lay delegates from a majority of the parishes and missions in union with the Convention shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

*Section 6.* The Bishop of the Diocese shall be the presiding officer of the Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the next following individual shall be the presiding officer of the Convention:

1. Bishop Coadjutor
2. Bishop Suffragan
3. President of the Standing Committee
4. An individual selected from among the attending priests ~~or~~ **and** lay delegates.

*Section 7.* The following provisions shall govern voting in Convention.

*Section 7.1.* On all questions before the Convention, unless otherwise required, the members shall deliberate and vote as one body unless twenty-five (25%) percent of the clerical and twenty-five (25%) percent of the lay delegates shall request a separate vote by Orders. If a separate vote by Orders is requested, the clergy shall vote individually and the lay delegates by churches (a majority from each parish having one vote and each mission having one-half vote). A majority vote of ~~both each~~ **Orders** shall, in each case, be necessary for a decision.

*Section 7.2.* In the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan, the vote shall be by written or electronic ballot, and by Orders. A ~~concurrent~~ majority of ~~both each~~ **Orders casting ballots on the same round of voting** is necessary to elect a Bishop. Provided, however, that two-thirds of all the clergy entitled to vote and two-thirds of all the parishes and missions entitled to representation be present; otherwise, two-thirds of the vote of each Order present **and casting ballots on the same round of voting** shall be necessary to determine a choice.

## ARTICLE XII

### Amendment of Constitution

No alteration or amendment of, or addition to, this Constitution shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing on the first day of an annual Convention and, after reference to the Committee on Constitution and Canons, is adopted by a majority vote of the Convention at which it is proposed, and further adopted by a two-thirds vote of ~~both each~~ **Orders** present at the next annual Convention.

**Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of  
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina  
Presented for First Reading Approval  
by vote of each Order in Convention, 2024**

**ARTICLE IX  
Standing Committee**

*Section 1.* There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of six **priests canonically resident clergy** of the Diocese and six laypersons, who are confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church in the Diocese. The Chancellor, unless an elected member of the Standing Committee, shall be an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee without vote. The members of the Standing Committee shall be elected by ballot for a term of three (3) years. At each annual Convention two **priests canonically resident clergy** and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. No **priest-clergy** or layperson whose term has expired shall be eligible for re- election until the passage of one Convention year from the date of said expiration.

*Section 2.* If there be no Bishop acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. In all decisions as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee shall vote by Orders; and a majority vote of the members present from each Order shall be necessary for a decision.

*Section 3.* At their first meeting after the election the Standing Committee shall choose one **of the priests** of their body to be their president and another member of their body to be their secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep regular minutes of all the proceedings and business of the committee. The committee shall maintain a written record of all of its activities and preserve the records and minutes of its meetings, **and may adopt bylaws.**

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**Proposed Amendments to the Canons of  
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina  
Presented for approval  
by two-thirds vote of each Order in Convention, 2024**

**Title I  
CANON 15  
Diocesan Council**

*Section 2.* The Diocesan Council shall be composed of these members: The Bishop of the Diocese, any assistant bishops of the diocese, if there be such, the Archdeacon of the diocese, the Treasurer of the diocese, the Chancellor of the diocese, six ~~priests~~ **canonically resident clergy** and six laypersons, to be elected by the annual Convention, whenever vacancies exist. Terms are to be three years or until a successor is elected.

After serving for a full term, the elected members of Diocesan Council shall be ineligible for membership for the following year. The Diocesan Council shall have power to fill any vacancy in its elected membership until successors are elected by the next diocesan Convention. No person shall serve on the Diocesan Council, who is not a member in good standing of a parish or mission in union with the convention or who is not ~~a priest~~ **canonically resident clergy** in the diocese.

# NOMINEES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

Report Prepared for the 234th Diocesan Convention  
As of November 7, 2024



## Diocesan Council (Three-year terms)

The Diocesan Council, comprised of six clergy and six lay members, along with the Bishop, Treasurer, and Chancellor, is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Diocesan program and budget. Between Diocesan Conventions, the Council functions much like the vestry of a congregation, establishing policies, planning the work of the church, and overseeing its administration.

**Clergy Nominees (2 Clergy Seats):**

The Rev. Kevin Sparrow  
The Very Rev. Roy Tripp

**Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):**

Donnalee Dodson     Catherine Ragsdale  
Charlinda Gallant     Matthew Robertson  
Sally Mayse

## Standing Committee (Three-year terms)

The Standing Committee is comprised of six clergy and six lay members. The Standing Committee’s responsibilities are: to act as the Standing Committee of the diocese in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitution of this Diocese (Article IX), and its Canons, including giving consents to Episcopal elections elsewhere in The Episcopal Church; to act as a Council of advice to the Bishop; and to act as Ecclesiastical Authority in absence of the Bishop.

**Clergy Nominees (2 Clergy Seats):**

The Rev. Denise Trogdon  
The Rev. Ricardo Bailey

**Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):**

Carla Cantrell     Betsey Smithdeal  
Peter Gaillard     Diane Wilson

*\* Jane Hart Lewis withdrew her nomination.*

## Trustees of the Diocese (Six-year term)

The Trustees of the Diocese include three clergy and three lay members serving in a six-year term. The responsibilities of the Trustees are in accordance with the 1902 Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, and include quarterly meetings, and managing the investments, assets, and endowments of the diocese.

**Clergy Nominees (1 Clergy Seat):**

The Rev. Rob Spainhour

**Lay Nominees (1 Lay Seat):**

Peggy Kovacs     Steve Skardon  
Laura Marshall     Keith Williamson  
Earle Phillips

## Trustee, University of the South (Three-year term)

The University of the South, located in Sewanee, TN, is owned by the Episcopal dioceses of the southeast, each of which elects two lay persons and one member of the clergy to its Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet once each year for two days. Between annual meetings, Trustees serve the University by promoting its mission, encouraging enrollment, and supporting it financially.

**Clergy Nominee (1 Clergy Seat):**

The Very Rev. Joseph Smith

**Additional nominations may be presented to the Nominations Committee on or before November 21, 2024, the first business day of Diocesan Convention.**

**Additional nominations must include 150 copies of each nominee's photo, nominator statement, and personal statement (which can be on one page).**

## Diocesan Council

### Clergy

**Name:** The Rev. Kevin Sparrow

**Church:** Saint Anne's, Conway

**Nominated by:** Susan Marie Slavin



**Nominator statement:** Rev. Kevin became our full-time priest in May 2024, after serving for 12 years at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier, VT (and prior to that serving in churches in Massachusetts and California). From those years of service, Rev. Kevin brings strong pastoral, liturgical and administrative skills to the position and diocesan leadership. Did I mention he served in the Peace Corps for two years in the Republic of Georgia, Gurjaani, Georgia - teaching English and volunteering to assist community development? Another reason I am nominating Rev. Kevin is because he is new to our diocese, and I feel it is important he contributes to the workings of our diocese.

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be nominated for a clergy position on the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. I am rector of St. Anne's in Conway. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having been raised at St. Luke's in Hawkinsville, Georgia, where my mother still worships. I attended The University of the South and Harvard Divinity School, and I am thrilled to be back at Sewanee for my Doctor of Ministry, with an emphasis on liturgy. As a layperson I have served on vestries and discernment committees and have worked on several diocesan initiatives in Vermont and Massachusetts.

My husband and I relocated to Conway from the beautiful state of Vermont, where I had the privilege of serving an historic congregation. I was a volunteer for the Peace Corps in the Republic of Georgia after divinity school, and I am active in promoting this wonderful program. I am thrilled to be a part of the story of the Diocese of South Carolina. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ in this place.

## Diocesan Council *Clergy*

**Name:** The Very Rev. Roy Tripp

**Church:** St. Mark's, Port Royal

**Nominated by:** J. Wood "Woody" Rutter



**Nominator statement:** Rev. Tripp has served as St. Mark's first full-time rector, having served our growing parish—and the larger community—for the past eight years. A gifted preacher with a quick and clever wit, he is universally admired and loved by the St Mark's family. Roy is a clear thinker, a good planner, and his pastoral skills have kept him very busy. He has led a pilgrimage to The Holy Land, and is currently leading another pilgrimage to England. Additionally, he is widely known and respected for his involvement in human and civil rights issues (He could be seen in the "60 Minutes" program filmed during a school board meeting in Beaufort, in which he protested the banning of library books!). With Roy's long experience serving as a priest in several dioceses, as Dean of the active Southern Deanery, and as a man of strong faith, he would be an excellent addition to the Diocesan Council.

**Personal statement:** I arrived in South Carolina in 2017 to be the first full-time rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Port Royal, SC. Since that time, I have been involved in the life of our diocese serving on Diocesan Council and presently as Dean of the Southern Deanery. I have always considered myself a "spiritual entrepreneur" and have approached parish ministry as an opportunity to share good news while inviting all to "come and see." I believe The Episcopal Church has so much to offer to people who are seeking a way to engage the mystery of the divine in an open and inviting way. Now, as I prepare to retire from full time parish ministry, I will have the opportunity to bring my experiences, gained over 27 years in The Church, to the council and our diocese. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

# Diocesan Council

## Lay

**Name:** Donnalee Dodson

**Church:** Epiphany, Summerville

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Rob Spainhour



**Nominator statement:** Donnalee is a committed person of faith in our Epiphany, Summerville community. Her role on Vestry in leadership commends her for Diocesan leadership. Her career as a teacher, administrator, and school superintendent demonstrate a helping ministry paired with leadership. Such skills will serve our Diocese well. Her Christ compassion for the "other" speaks to her compassion and herald a life of "walking the talk."

**Personal Statement:** It would be an honor to serve on the Diocesan Council. I'm currently serving on the Vestry at Epiphany Church. I am dedicated to the shared goal and mission of growing our church family by attracting children and young adults to perpetuate the rich traditions and spirituality we share. While we cherish our generational abundance, the key to the future lies in the hands of our youth. Meeting them where they are through technology and innovation, by combining the past with future possibilities, can help them grow into the reverence and traditions of the welcoming faith community we currently embrace and want to perpetuate. Communication is vital along with "service-learning" by word and example, as Jesus showed us.

I have 35 years of experience in education, first as a teacher and then holding different principalships at the high school and middle school levels, as a 7th-12th grade principal, and then in a K-12 principalship, where I was appointed superintendent for my final three years. My post-retirement work included training for the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and leading workshops on military bases all over the US for civilian teachers to better support the unique needs of children of service men and women who move frequently and are deployed. I just participated in the first Braver Angels Depolarization Workshop in Charleston, and I intend to continue this initiative. I am also a substitute teacher for Dorchester County. Serving on the Diocesan Council is a privilege and an opportunity to learn and work collaboratively with others in faith.

# Diocesan Council

## Lay

**Name:** Charlinda Gallant

**Church:** Calvary, Charleston

**Nominated by:** Gail DeCosta



**Nominator statement:** Charlinda has served in leadership positions in her church and is currently the treasurer. She is dedicated, organized, responsible and hard-working. She has served as a facilitator for our diocesan Sacred Ground program and in that capacity has also demonstrated her people skills. Charlinda would be an asset to our Diocesan Council.

**Personal Statement:** Married 41 wonderful years to my husband, Marvin, we have built a strong partnership rooted in love. Together, we raised three children who have enriched our lives. As a mother and a grandmother, I cherish every moment spent with my family. Born with a strong work ethic and a passion for leadership, my journey began where I learned the value of dedication and perseverance. From a young age, I was drawn to challenges and opportunities that allowed me to grow, both personally and professionally. With 35 years of experience in the corporate world, I have had the privilege of working as a District Manager, overseeing operations across Coastal South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. I take great pride in mentoring others and helping them reach their full potential.

My commitment to my community extends beyond my professional life. I am actively involved at Calvary Church in Charleston, where I currently serve as the Treasurer, a Vestry member, and an Usher. I supported the Racial Justice Committee as a facilitator with Sacred Ground. These roles allow me to give back and contribute to the spiritual growth of my church, something I hold dear to my heart. When I'm not busy with family commitments, you can find me on the golf course. Golf is not just a sport for me; it's a passion that provides a perfect blend of challenge and relaxation. I love the camaraderie it brings, whether I'm playing with friends or meeting new people through the game.

I am filled with gratitude for the experiences that have shaped me. From my career achievements to my deep-rooted family ties and community involvement, every aspect has contributed to the person I am today. I believe in the importance of hard work, compassion, and giving back. I remain excited about what lies ahead and am committed to making a positive impact in the lives of those around me.

## Diocesan Council

### Lay

**Name:** Sally Mayse

**Church:** St. Mark's, Port Royal

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Pam Fahrner



**Nominator Statement:** It is my great pleasure to nominate Sally Mayse for service on the Diocesan Council. She is a fine example of dedication, devotion, faith, commitment, courage and determination. She brings a lifetime of experience, both professionally and personally, and she will be a dedicated member of the council—an asset in every way. She is an active member of the Southern Deanery and currently serves at Heavenly Rest, Estill, and St. Mark's, Port Royal. She organized and coordinated the repair of the Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library bookmobile as outreach ministry of Heavenly Rest. In addition, she organized and coordinated for the Heavenly Rest Outreach Program the funding of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program for Hampton County. She is a construction volunteer locally and internationally with Habitat for Humanity. She is a cradle Episcopalian and has served as a sacristan, acolyte, reader, eucharistic visitor, choir member, vestry member for two churches, and has served a term on Diocesan Council in the past. She completed a career in public schools as secondary classroom teacher, coordinator of an education consortium in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties and retired from the Beaufort County School District as a program coordinator. We are blessed to have this talented woman willing to serve our diocese.

**Personal Statement:** I am a cradle Episcopalian, baptized, confirmed and married in the Episcopal Church. My nomination form details my lifelong dedication to the Church, past and present. I am proud to say that I am Enthusiastically Episcopalian! What can I bring to a position on Diocesan Council? I can bring joy, experience and knowledge but without reservation, I will bring a servant's heart, determination, and energy to the tasks required. I have a deep and abiding belief in Jesus' instruction to love the Lord, my God, with all my heart, mind and soul and to love my neighbor as myself. You are my neighbor and it would be a joy and blessing to me to serve you on Diocesan Council.

## Diocesan Council *Lay*

**Name:** Catherine Ragsdale

**Church:** St. James-Santee, McClellanville

**Nominated by:** Doug Hurteau



**Nominator Statement:** Cathy is a lifelong Episcopalian and has served the Church at many levels including as a church vestry member. In addition, she had a long career as a social worker and is very adept at outreach and social ministry.

**Personal Statement:** A retired social worker, I moved to the Lowcountry just over three years ago with my husband and daughter-in-law. I am currently a member of St. James-Santee in McClellanville, where my husband, Lee, serves as deacon. My contribution to the Diocesan Council would be the skillset I have gained through my life experience as an Episcopalian and as a social worker. The majority of my church service was in my home Diocese of East Tennessee. I served in ministries such as Outreach, Hospitality, and Inreach, and served on the Vestry. I am also a member of the Daughters of the King.

Since moving to South Carolina, I have become involved with the Sacred Ground program as a participant and a facilitator. My social work career gave me the opportunity to work with a wide range of diverse populations, ranging from at-risk youths and their parents in group home settings to incarcerated adults preparing to return to the community from the state prison system in Tennessee. I was able to gain experience in grant writing, curriculum development, and program implementation. My skills and experience are really only part of my qualifications to serve on the Diocesan Council. Having been an Episcopalian since I was five years old, my heart and soul are committed to this church and its work in the world. Because the Diocesan Council enables that work, I feel called to stand for election to this important work.

## Diocesan Council

### *Lay*

**Name:** Matthew Robertson

**Church:** St. Catherine's, Florence

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Eunice Dunlap



**Nominator Statement:** Matthew Robertson is a faithful Episcopalian who currently serves in the capacity of Digital Acolyte at St. Catherine's in Florence. That digital knowledge in addition to his work as a journalist and photographer makes him an extremely capable detail-oriented person who has many connections locally, as well as within the Diocese. He has a great talent for jumping in whenever and wherever needed in almost every capacity at his local church. In addition he has completed four years of E.F.M. which is impressive in itself. I believe Matthew will be a great asset to the Diocesan Council.

**Personal Statement:** I am a native West Virginian and a graduate of Marshall University. As a journalist, I have lived and worked in several West Virginia communities, Goldsboro, NC, and Maryville and Lenoir City, TN. I have lived in Florence since 1995, where I am the Digital Editor of the Morning News/ SCNow.com in Florence. I have one daughter, who lives in Oregon. I was christened Presbyterian, raised United Methodist and was married 13 years to a Catholic. I joined St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in 2013 right after the schism.

At St. Catherine's, I serve as communications director and a member of Mission Council. During my nearly two-year stint as Senior Warden, I oversaw a change in clergy, the initiation of a literacy outreach to Savannah Grove Elementary School, and the launch of a capital campaign.

## Standing Committee *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Denise Trogdon

**Church:** All Saints, Hilton Head Island

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Bill Watson



**Nominator statement:** Since taking the position of rector of All Saints, Hilton Head, Denise has not only led her parish with clarity and vision, but she has served in several diocesan positions including Diocesan Council and Commission on Ministry. I am honored to nominate her to serve on the Standing Committee.

**Personal Statement:** It would be an honor to serve on the Standing Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. For the last five years, I have served as the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island. I am currently on the Commission on Ministry and participated for three years on the Diocesan Council. I was a member of the Transition Committee, that welcomed our new Bishop and chaired the Strategic Transition Task Force, doing groundwork in preparation for the court decisions on returning properties.

In the Diocese of Virginia, I was Dean of the North Fairfax region that included 12 parishes, during my tenure as rector of Holy Cross Episcopal in Dunn Loring, Virginia. I served on the Virginia Diocese Dayspring Team, working with congregations displaced due to the schism, and helped with reintegration as buildings were reclaimed. I also served as a supervisor for students at Virginia Theological Seminary. I provided mediation and consultation for the Diocese of Connecticut, when I was Associate Rector at Saint Luke's Episcopal, in Darien, CT. Prior to my ordination, as a licensed psychotherapist and lifelong Episcopalian, I provided diocesan workshops for Virginia in the prevention of sexual misconduct and abuse and consulted with the Diocesan Mental Health Committee. I believe that my leadership and organizational skills can be utilized to support the tasks of the Standing Committee. I would be grateful for your support.

## Standing Committee *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Ricardo Bailey

**Church:** Calvary, Charleston

**Nominated by:** The Very Rev. Michael Shaffer



**Nominator statement:** I am honored to nominate the Rev. Ricardo Bailey to serve on the Standing Committee. Fr. Bailey serves as the 7th rector of the Historic Calvary Episcopal Church, Charleston, founded in 1847 as a church for enslaved and free persons of color. While the Standing Committee has specific canonical responsibilities, it serves primarily as the bishop’s council of advice, and it that regard it is important that membership be comprised of those with a broad and diverse experience, which Ricardo has in abundance.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Father Bailey was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta in 2003, received as an Episcopalian in the Fall of 2011 by the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander, and in 2013 was formally received as an Episcopal priest by the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright. He served various schools and congregations in the Atlanta area before serving as priest-in-charge of St. Timothy’s, Decatur, Georgia, until accepting the call of Calvary in 2023. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, has been President of the Atlanta Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and currently serves as chaplain to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church.

**Personal Statement:** I am humbled to be nominated to serve on our diocese’s Standing Committee. Currently, I serve as the 7th Rector of The Historic Calvary Episcopal Church and as a chaplain to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church. I LOVE being a priest and it is a blessing to serve the people of God.

It is important that the mission of the diocese continues to teach, guide and equip the wider Church for the work of ministry in every aspect the Church finds itself. To this committee I bring discernment, faithfulness, and the ability to work in collaboration with others. Therefore, if I am chosen, it will be my honor to be of service to our diocese. Thanks be to God that this work requires us to work at the discretion of the bishop for the greater good of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina!

I, like you, want to see our diocese continue to grow while accepting God’s invitation for us to be holy as our God is holy. This work of discernment and care for one another is a call that the Standing Committee embraces as we share the love of God.

# Standing Committee

## Lay

**Name:** Carla Cantrell

**Church:** St. Francis, Edisto Island

**Nominated by:** Taylor Skardon



**Nominator statement:** I am honored to nominate Mrs. Carla Cantrell to serve on the diocesan Standing Committee. She is thoughtful, humble and devoted to The Episcopal Church and her congregation of St. Francis Episcopal Church on Edisto. Although Carla serves on the church’s Fellowship and Growth Committees, her real gift is the quiet, but impactful work of making all newcomers feel welcome when worshipping at St. Francis. Carla will be a great addition to the Standing Committee. She will be the most prepared member at each meeting as well as a leader in finding consensus to provide well-thought out “committee solutions” for the bishop to consider. Additionally, Carla represents an important constituency—those congregations who lost their church buildings as a result of the schism. These congregations need a strong voice like Carla’s on the Standing Committee—someone who will speak up and remind other members what these congregations have and are experiencing. Finally, Carla is just a fun person to be around! Her gregarious personality and ability to find the good in everyone will make her a wonderful addition to the Committee and the Diocesan Leadership Team. Please join me in supporting Carla Cantrell’s election to the Standing Committee! Thank you.

**Personal statement:** I would love the opportunity to serve on the Standing Committee. I worked as an educator for over 40 years. I found great joy in working with students, teachers, parents, and administrators—often bringing people together, creating a refuge in my counseling office and encouraging them to reach their goals. Now that I’m retired, I continue to look for opportunities to support my community.

As a member of the Standing Committee, I could work with a community of believers for the benefit of the diocese and beyond. I love The Episcopal Church dearly. I am currently a member of Saint Francis Episcopal Church of Edisto. I lead the growth committee, tasked with outreach in our community through visibility at community events. I am also a member of the fellowship committee, working to connect other members together. I am a lay reader. I was previously a member of another Episcopal church in Savannah, Ga for several decades before retiring to South Carolina, where I led the youth group for many years and also served on the vestry.

I recently had the opportunity to take Depolarizing Ourselves and have begun taking Sacred Ground. As a member of the Standing Committee, I would be eager to continue these educational opportunities—we are never too old to learn! I would also use these trainings and my experience to unify folks while also standing up for what Jesus preached in the Gospel.

## Standing Committee Lay

**Name:** Peter Gaillard

**Church:** St. Mark's, Port Royal

**Nominated by:** J. Wood "Woody" Rutter



**Nominator Statement:** Peter Gaillard and his wife are enthusiastic and active members of St. Mark's. In the opinion of several of our church leaders who have spoken to me, Pete has emerged as a compelling candidate for Standing Committee. Tom Miller, who is rotating off the Standing Committee writes: "Working closely with Pete on the Adult Education program...as well as his ability to think rationally and communicate clearly, make him an ideal candidate for Standing Committee."

**Personal Statement:** I was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia and am a cradle-to-grave Episcopalian. After graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, I spent 39 years in the nuclear energy industry. Much of my career was spent as an Engineering/Technical Advisor, Manager and Director for Regulatory Affairs. I coordinated with many industry groups including internal company organizations, local public agencies, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and National Advisory Committees. As a result, I am comfortable interacting with people ranging from the general public to high-ranking officials and executives on different complex and emotional issues.

My wife, daughters and I have lived in seven states over the course of my career. It's important to us to be involved in the communities where we live. We have been active parishioners at many different Episcopal churches. I have served in a variety of roles including Vestry (twice), Stewardship Chair, Children's Education, Adult Education and other roles as needed. After relocating to Beaufort in anticipation on my retirement in 2021, my wife and I joined St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Port Royal where we serve in a variety of capacities. I serve my community as a Docent at the Beaufort History Museum and the Port Royal Sound Foundation. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a lay member of the Standing Committee to help address issues in the next several years.

## Standing Committee

### *Lay*

**Name:** Betsey Smithdeal

**Church:** Holy Cross Faith Memorial, Pawleys Island

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Wil Keith



**Nominator statement:** Betsey is a lifelong Episcopalian who attends worship regularly. She keeps up to date about the happenings at her parish as well as in her diocese. She has a mind for numbers and finance, which are always welcome on diocesan leadership bodies. However, she also brings a profound and disciplined faith to her work, as well. She knows her community deeply and serves it both willingly and with great care.

**Personal Statement:** I am 49 years old and have been with Truist Bank for 25 years. Currently my role is a Premier Banker assisting clients with their personal financial needs through planning. I have my series 7 and 66 securities licenses along with insurance for long-term care and life insurance. I attended the University of Kentucky and earned a BA in Education and was a Kentucky cheerleader. I am originally from North Carolina and transferred with my job to the Myrtle Beach area in 2013. During this time I participated and graduated from the Leadership Grand Strand program, a year-long commitment to learning about the inner workings and history of Horry County and volunteering in the community. I have been part of The Episcopal Church since 1995 and would welcome this opportunity to utilize my gifts of kindness, positivity, caring, and consistency. Thank you for your consideration,

## Standing Committee

### *Lay*

**Name:** Diane Wilson

**Church:** St. George's, Summerville

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Jennie Olbrych



**Nominator statement:** Diane has served our diocese very faithfully and capably for many years. As a member of St. George's in Summerville and, as St. George's Church Administrator, she has had a front row seat to the multitude of challenges and opportunities faced by congregations and clergy. Diane previously served as a member of and clerk to the Standing Committee during the time the Standing Committee was the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. She presently serves as Secretary for our Diocesan Conventions overseeing many of the key organizational workings of Convention. It is unusual to find this range of capable experience in one person, and Diane would bring all of this—along with her considerable wisdom—to serving on the Standing Committee. I am nominating her for these reasons and am very grateful that she is willing to serve if elected.

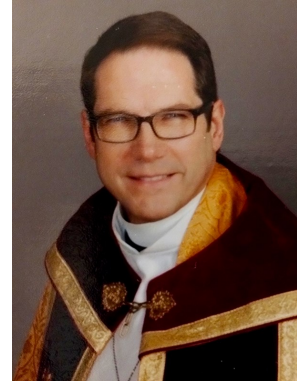
**Personal Statement:** The Episcopal Church has spiritually grounded me since 2001. I was baptized at St. George's in Summerville in 2002. Immediately thereafter I was nominated to serve on the vestry and I served in various ministries in the church. At the time I was employed by what is now AT&T supervising in and then managing two call centers. In 2010, during a time of downsizing, I retired with 35 years of service with AT&T and later that year I was hired as Parish Administrator at St. George's. I was nominated to and served on the Standing Committee during COVID and our time when we did not have a bishop. During that time I served as Secretary to the Standing Committee and was asked to serve as Secretary to the Convention for the electing convention. I have served as Secretary to the Convention since then. I am excited about the direction of our diocese and The Episcopal Church and, with your support, eager to serve on the Standing Committee.

## Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Rob Spainhour

**Church:** Epiphany, Summerville

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Dow Sanderson



**Nominator Statement:** In addition to his long tenure as an Episcopal priest, Fr. Spainhour has a well-respected history as an educator and school administrator. He brings qualities of integrity and responsibility, and experience in oversight of budgets and the managing of investments. He is well qualified to serve as a Trustee.

**Personal Statement:** I am excited to be back home in SC, canonically resident here again as the part-time priest-in-charge at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Summerville. I retired last year from the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, where I served as the rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Swanton, Vermont. There, for eight years, I helped steward a \$9 million endowment. My sense is that assisting in the budget with this parish, and others, in ongoing ministry may be helpful as a Trustee.

I believe my work on the Board of the Rock Point Camp and Conference Center in Vermont with its capital campaign will also be valuable in this ministry. My leadership experience began as a high school teacher in Summerville and assistant principal at Oakbrook and DuBose Middle Schools there. I was ordained as a priest in 1992 under Bishop Salmon at St. Johns Episcopal Church, West Ashley. After 10 years there as Rector, I worked bi-vocationally as a priest and high school principal in SC and in the Diocese for East Carolina (NC). During my tenure in SC, NC, and VT, I served five parishes and on Diocesan Council, Standing Committee (President S.C.), Executive Council, Ecclesiastical Court (President S.C.), Chair of Racial Reconciliation Committee, Deputy and Alternate to General Convention, serving for two Conventions on the staff of The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings. I will be honored to assist in implementing a future, through the Trustees, which continues to be vibrant and missionary focused.

## Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Lay*

**Name:** Peggy Kovacs

**Church:** Messiah, Myrtle Beach

**Nominated by:** Kristi Burch



**Nominator Statement:** I nominate Peggy Kovacs for Trustee because her leadership is well-positioned to oversee the management of the investments, assets, and endowments of the diocese. I serve with Peggy as the co-chair of Church of the Messiah’s Steering Committee for our Re-visioning Process. Peggy’s commitment to the life of the church is evident as she is Messiah’s treasurer, a lifelong choir member, a musician, and a dedicated children’s ministry volunteer. Peggy holds an MBA and is a retired Lieutenant Commander in the U. S. Navy. Her vast experience includes budgetary oversight, fiscal responsibility, accounting oversight, and compliance oversight. Peggy’s eyes and ears are always on the details, constantly asking if we are using our treasure to focus our mission. Peggy led investing in Messiah’s nest egg. As a trustee, Peggy would be a great asset and resource to the Diocese.

**Personal Statement:** Over the course of 20 years I worked as a federal employee for five government agencies. I was involved in management and program analysis, information systems development, analysis and implementation of regulatory law, and budgetary oversight. As a Branch Chief and Division Director I had leadership responsibility as well as budgetary responsibility for the organization.

I worked as defense contractor for two defense agencies. I implemented the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Privacy Act for the one agency, and provided accounting oversight of Defense contracts for the other. I served 23 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, Medical Service Corps and retired as Lieutenant Commander. Serving at various stations, including the hospital ship Comfort, I provided administrative and computer support. I served as Commanding Officer of a PRIMUS (Physician Reservists in Medical Universities and Schools) unit providing leadership and oversight of all members of this program.

I sang in the choirs of the Emmanuel and Grace Episcopal churches, as well as the Piedmont Singers (a music outreach program at Emmanuel). Currently I sing in the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, and serve as treasurer (since January 2023). I am also currently serving on the New Church Search committee, providing support and knowledge of local laws, practices, and the exist market. To this committee and to the church I provide close budgetary guidance and support, as well as providing budgetary support to the diocese. I hope to provide this support and guidance to the diocese as well.

## Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Lay*

**Name:** Laura Marshall

**Church:** Heavenly Rest, Estill

**Nominated by:** J. Wood “Woody” Rutter



**Nominator Statement:** Laura Marshall and her husband Alfred’s principal residence is in Charlotte, NC, where Laura is a respected banker. They also maintain—and visit frequently—a lovely old family home in Estill, SC. Heavenly Rest was for many years the “family church”—a lovely “carpenter’s style” small church in the woods. When the Marshalls “deeded” the church to the newly-reconstituted Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, they rallied a number of people from the diocese to clean it up, have it repainted, replaced the old organ, polished the brass and cleaned the gorgeous stained glass windows. There have been a number of special services, with visiting priests, and Bishop Ruth has visited several times. It is one of those small rural Episcopal churches that have devoted caretakers/parishioners that Bishop Ruth has called “part of the connective tissue” that binds all of the churches of the diocese together. As a banker, as a strong supporter of the diocese, and as a warm personality, I feel that Laura Marshall is an excellent candidate for Trustee of the diocese.

**Personal Statement:** I was born in Charlotte, grew up in Memphis, and now enjoy a dual residency in North and South Carolina. My Southern roots run deep. Our church, Heavenly Rest in Estill, was built in 1891 in memory of Alice Martin Marshall by her parents, my husband’s great-great-grandparents. His family has been intimately involved in the church. My husband and I, with the critical help of the diocese, are reinvigorating the church where I serve as the senior warden. The vestry is enthused and dedicated, and I feel fortunate to serve this beautiful church with such rich history. For me, this has been—and continues to be—a very fulfilling task and an unparalleled opportunity. My love for our little church and The Episcopal Church has grown.

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a lay Trustee of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of our faith community, and I am eager to contribute to its continued growth and vitality. I am eager to leverage my professional skills and experience to contribute to our shared vision of growth and stewardship. My experiences as a Trustee for the University of the South and as a member of the Commission on Ministry have not only deepened my understanding of our Church’s mission but have also equipped me with valuable skills in governance and strategic planning. In my professional life, I have extensive experience in public finance, commercial banking, investment banking, fixed income trading and institutional sales, as well as managing deals for private placements and business acquisitions. I believe I am equipped to oversee and guide the Diocese’s financial resources with integrity and accountability.

## **Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina** **Lay**

**Name:** Earle Phillips

**Church:** St. Catherine's, Florence

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Eunice Dunlap



**Nominator Statement:** It gives me great pleasure to nominate Earle Phillips for Trustee to the Diocese. She served on Diocesan Council from 2021-2023 as well as Stewardship and Development 2021-2023 and Budget Development 2021. She is currently serving as Treasurer for St. Catherine's Episcopal Church and has served in this position since 2016 and also serves as Chair of St. Catherine's Finance Committee. Earle has the knowledge needed for this position and will be an asset to the Trustees of the Diocese with her experience in investment management as well as every day financial decisions.

**Personal Statement:** I am one of the founding members of St. Catherine's in Florence. Raised in the Baptist Church, I chose to become an Episcopalian at the age of 12. I have served St. Catherine's in many capacities, including altar guild, hospitality, lector, convention delegate and, for the past eight years and counting, treasurer. During this time I have also successfully handled St. Catherine's investments. I was a very active member of the Episcopal Forum Board of Directors for many years while the legal battles regarding the diocesan split were waged. I have served the Diocese on the Diocesan Council, the Stewardship & Development Committee, and the 2022 Budget Creation Committee. For the majority of my working career, I was assistant executive director of a national association of 1,600 colleges & universities and 900 entertainment firms. My other positions were primarily in finance, law firm management and data management systems.

I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and a Master's Degree in Student Personnel Administration. I have done additional studies in several areas at Cambridge University in England.

## Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Lay*

**Name:** Steve Skardon

**Church:** Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Eric Bash



**Nominator Statement:** For the past 32 years Steve was the CEO of the Palmetto Project, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all South Carolinians. The organization’s annual budget, which Steve oversaw, exceeded that of the diocese and required numerous administrative, asset management, and fundraising skills that would be of value as a diocesan trustee.

Steve grew up in a multi-generational clergy family in this diocese and has been a member of parishes in Summerville, Florence, and Charleston. Since 1994, he has been a member of Grace Cathedral and served in various leadership roles there. He was one of the founders of the Diocesan Youth Commission and the youngest person to serve on Diocesan Council. He also worked in the broader Church as a special projects consultant to three presiding bishops. Most importantly, Steve brings a unique perspective on the parishes of our diocese. His father and grandfather combined served nearly one-third of our parishes as rectors, priests-in-charge, and interims. Steve is a student of the history of the Diocese and, for 20 years as editor of [scepiscopalians.com](http://scepiscopalians.com), he came to know the workings of each parish and their leadership.

**Personal Statement:** My first job with the diocese was grass-mower, leaf-raker, and puller of weeds at the home of Bishop and Mrs. Temple. I was 16. My stature grew considerably one Saturday morning when the Bishop leaned out a window and shouted, “I need your help selling Seabrook Island?” I think I responded with a blank stare. Later, he explained that he needed a young person to be one of the diocese’s representatives in the upcoming sale. Against the advice of many, he’d accepted a lower sale price in exchange for keeping St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. This was much more than a simple business transaction. To the bishop, a young person’s signature on the settlement documents would be a sign to future generations of confidence in their ministry and the camp as an investment in their work. Assets, he said, are nothing unless they align with mission. I recently retired from a non-profit organization that raised millions for successful community programs, largely following Bishop Temple’s approach ... and that’s the experience and perspective I would bring to the work of the Trustees.

Our diocese has been formative for me throughout my life, even when I was living elsewhere. I’ve been a teacher, lay reader, Eucharistic visitor, vestryperson, convention delegate, and member of Diocesan Council and youth commission. I am currently a member of Grace Cathedral where I am usually in the choir. I also love to write and, for 20 years, many of you have honored me with your support of my writing on [SCEpiscopalians.com](http://SCEpiscopalians.com).

## Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Lay*

**Name:** Keith Williamson

**Church:** St. Bartholomew's, Hartsville

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Michael Bye



**Nominator Statement:** Keith has served the Church well for 40 years in a variety of positions. He is presently treasurer of St. Bart's and brings a wealth of experience in finances and management of complicated organizations. His skill would be well used by the diocese.

**Personal Statement:** ***Parish activities:*** Currently treasurer and vestry member; formerly senior warden at St. Bartholomew's Hartsville, where I helped set up a parish endowment. Formerly treasurer and senior warden of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Darlington ***Diocesan activities:*** Member of last year's Strategic Vision task force. Formerly diocesan stewardship consultant for parish campaigns ***Business experience:*** Partner in family farming operation in Darlington for 15 years. After returning to school to get my MBA, worked at Sonoco Products Company in Hartsville for 17 years, much of that time as a business unit manager. Currently retired (mostly). ***Education:*** Davidson College (A.B. in French), NC State University (master's in agriculture), Stanford University (MBA). Completed EFM and SC Master Naturalist courses. ***Principal activities for "re-creation":*** Yoga, tennis, reading, and walking, preferably in the woods or on the beach.

## Trustee, University of the South *Clergy*

**Name:** The Very Rev. Joseph Smith

**Church:** St. Francis, Edisto Island

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Ryan Currie



**Nominator Statement:** As my own term comes to an end, it is my pleasure to nominate the Rev. Joseph Smith, rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Edisto, to serve as the Diocese of South Carolina clergy trustee for The University of the South at Sewanee. As an alumnus of the University’s School of Theology and a parent of a graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences, Joseph is well-positioned to understand Sewanee’s needs and its unique relationship to The Episcopal Church. I have come to know Joseph as a priest who is distinctively focused on the mission of the church toward all people. I believe that focus will serve the University and this Diocese well if Father Smith is elected to serve as trustee.

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be considered for the position of Trustee for the University of the South, affectionately known to us alumni as Sewanee. As a proud member of the class of T’07 and the parent of a graduate from the class of C’17, I am deeply committed to this esteemed institution and its ongoing success. I believe it is crucial for The Episcopal Church to maintain its presence in our increasingly secular world, and I am dedicated to supporting this mission through my service as a Trustee. If elected, I will partner with my fellow Trustees to ensure that Sewanee remains “a crucible of mind, heart, and place out of which is forged an experience that calls us to make a difference in the world.”-EQB.

**234th Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina  
Resolutions Referred to Dioceses by the 81st General Convention**

**A043 Amend Constitution Article VIII regarding Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships - [First Reading]**

Final Status: Concurred as Amended

*Resolved*, That the 81st General Convention amend Article VIII of the Constitution by adding the following paragraph at the end of the existing article:

Of Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) are ministries that may be formed between Episcopal dioceses and their parallels in other Christian denominations in order to provide shared pastoral leadership.

An ordained minister in good standing of one of the constituent denominations identified in the canons may be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese to serve in this Church on a temporary basis as part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership as governed by the relevant canons.

## **A116 Marriage Rites for Inclusion in the Book of Common Prayer (First Reading)**

Final Status: Concurred as Substituted

*Resolved*, That the 81st General Convention authorize for trial use under Article X.b the following revisions to the Book of Common Prayer 1979:

BCP pp. 349 and 381: Following the Preface of Marriage, add the rubric “or this”, followed by Preface of Marriage, Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) Blue Book report p. 39

BCP p. 423: Revise the title to read “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage I”

BCP p. 433: Revise the title to read “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage I”

BCP p. 435: Revise the title to read “An Order for Marriage I”

Following BCP p. 438, add The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, SCLM Blue Book report pp. 28-36; The Blessing of Civil Marriage, SCLM Blue Book report pp. 36-37; An Order of Marriage, SCLM Blue Book report pp. 37-38; and Additional Directions, SCLM Blue Book Report, pp. 38-39; with the following revisions:

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 28: Revise the first paragraph Concerning the Service as follows: “At least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; the ceremony must be attested by at least two witnesses; and the marriage must conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church.”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 29: Revise the title to read “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage II”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 35: Replace “Preface of the Season” with “Preface of Marriage, or of the Season”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 36: Revise the title to read “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage II”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 37: Revise the title to read “An Order for Marriage II”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 37: Replace the first paragraph of An Order of Marriage with the following text: “If it is desired to celebrate a marriage otherwise than as provided in the Book of Common Prayer or any authorized alternative thereto, this Order is used.”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 37: Revise paragraph 3 of An Order of Marriage as follows: “The laws of the State and the canons of this Church having been complied with, the couple, together with their witnesses, families, and friends assemble in the church or in some other convenient place.”

Blue Book Report p. 37: Revise #1 of An Order of Marriage as follows: “The teaching of the Church concerning Holy Matrimony, as it is declared in the formularies and canons of this Church, is briefly stated.”

And be it further

*Resolved*, That these liturgies authorized for trial use be made available electronically at no cost; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to engage a dynamic equivalence translation of these texts into the Spanish, French, and Kreyol languages; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the liturgies The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, The Blessing of a Civil Marriage, and An Order for Marriage as authorized in The Book of Common Prayer 1979 continue to be authorized for use in all dioceses of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Executive Council Budget Committee to allocate \$12,000 for translation.

**A224 Amend Article X with clarifying amendments (post 2024-A072) [First Reading]**

Final Status: Concurred as Amended

*Resolved*, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church repeal Article X, Sections 1 and 2, and replace with the following:

Article X: Of The Book of Common Prayer

Sec. 1. The Book of Common Prayer is those liturgical forms, communal and devotional prayers, and other content authorized by the General Convention in accordance with this article and shall be enriched by our church's cultural, geographical, and linguistic contexts.

The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the General Convention shall be in use in all the Dioceses and other jurisdictions of this Church.

Any Book of Common Prayer, or portions thereof, memorialized by the General Convention, is authorized for use at any service in all the Dioceses and other jurisdictions of this Church.

Sec. 2. No alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be made unless the General Convention approve the same on first reading in one regular meeting of the General Convention and, by resolve so directing, be sent by the Secretary of the General Convention to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese and other jurisdictions, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next regular meeting, and be adopted on second reading without alteration by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting by a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by an affirmative vote by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Art. I, Sec. 5 of this Constitution, except that concurrence in the affirmative by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by a majority of the Dioceses and other jurisdictions entitled to representation in the House of Deputies.

**Do49 Increase by one the possible number of bishops suffragans in a Diocese  
[First Reading]**

Final Status: Concurred

*Resolved*, That Article II of the Constitution is amended as follows:

Article II: Of Bishops

Sec. 4. It shall be lawful for a Diocese, at the request of the Bishop of that Diocese, to elect not more than three Bishops Suffragan, without right of succession, and with seat and vote in the House of Bishops. A Bishop Suffragan shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. A Bishop Suffragan shall be eligible for election as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor of a Diocese, or as a Bishop Suffragan in another Diocese.



## **Report of Institutions and the Dominican Development Group**

**The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina**  
The 234<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

## **Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community**

### **Report for the 234<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina Diocesan Convention**

It has been a truly wonderful year for us at Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community, as we continue to fulfill our mission of embracing God's call to ministry, affirming positive living, serving with integrity, exercising wise stewardship, and reaching out with a generous spirit. We remain committed to excellence in senior living, and guided by the call to serve faithfully and with generosity, to fostering an environment where residents, staff, and families feel valued and supported, both within and beyond our Community.

Our commitment to the local community is stronger than ever, as demonstrated through our charitable giving and community outreach. This year, we contributed \$431,500.00 in direct grants to support *Charleston Area Senior Citizens*, *Kids on Point*, *My Sister's House*, and *Our Lady of Mercy*, affirming our dedication to supporting those in need. Generosity at Bishop Gadsden is truly community-wide, with residents, 100% of our Board and Senior Leadership, and over 250 team members all participating in giving efforts. We also donated 19,098 pounds of food to Low Country Food Bank and Cuisine Rescue, providing 15,915 meals, the equivalent of \$28,647.00 in direct support. Our robust Employee Assistance Fund and the Strongheart, Ruffle, and Christie Scholarship programs further support our team members and their families, reinforcing our values of care and stewardship.

Our Chapel remains a focal point for spiritual growth and worship at Bishop Gadsden. The Choral Scholars program, featuring four paid section leaders who are either studying music or are music educators, enriches our Sunday morning worship and choral evensongs throughout the year. The Chapel is also proud to continue in the *Capella Concerti Series* by sponsoring special musical performances in our acoustically renowned space.

In 2025, we look forward to broadening the reach of the pastoral care we provide with the addition of a second full-time priest dedicated to supporting the spiritual needs of our Gadsden Glen residents, their families, and our Team Members who work in this special part of our community. This new role will provide a steady and comforting presence for those in our Center for Health and Rehab, where emotional and spiritual support are invaluable. As we begin the search process, we are eager to see who God has in mind for this call. We trust that this new priest will bring gifts that further enrich our community's nurturing environment, embracing and caring for all who call Bishop Gadsden home.

We also look forward to reigniting points of connection with each parish throughout the diocese. Through the Koinonia program, we hope to foster bonds with area churches and create fellowship through joyful gatherings in the healthcare areas of our community, including Myers Hall Assisted Living, Arcadia Memory Care, and Estes Skilled Nursing Community. Parish groups will have the chance to connect with residents through events like wine and cheese gatherings, dessert socials, and other shared experiences, strengthening the sense of community and companionship. By reestablishing these connections with the returning and thriving congregations, Koinonia will once again enrich our residents' lives and reinforce our shared commitment to fellowship and faith within the diocese.

Finally, Bishop Gadsden continues to expand its mission. The recently announced affiliation with Seafields establishes a new presence and Episcopal asset in the sea island areas of Kiawah and Seabrook. This nonprofit community, currently under construction, creates a satellite campus for Bishop Gadsden, adding 89 independent living residences and 16 assisted living apartment homes which will be ready for occupancy in late 2025.

Beginning in November 2024, the newest neighborhood of 15 beautiful apartment homes called The Meade will be ready for occupancy in our James Island Community, welcoming approximately 27 new residents to our Community. Each of the three new buildings contains five homes, four of which are 1,800 square feet and one that is 2,400 square feet. These open-concept residences offer thoughtful amenities, including covered parking for both cars and golf carts, conditioned storage space, and a beautiful rooftop terrace, providing a gathering space for friends and neighbors to connect and enjoy.

Outreach extends beyond our campus through the Christie Rehab Center and our Embark program, making Bishop Gadsden accessible to people throughout the greater Charleston community. We remain committed to providing excellence in senior living and compassionate care, embodying our mission of service. We look forward to another year of growth, giving, and gratitude, and as always, if you find yourself visiting our beautiful community or curious to know more about it, please don't hesitate in reaching out to us!

Sarah E. H. Tipton  
President/CEO

The Rev. Charles E. Jenkins  
Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain



Report to the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina  
- October 2024 -

It is challenging to write this report on the heels of Tropical Storm Helene. So many in our region are hurting, homeless, without power and basic needs. Kanuga itself has sustained devastating losses and damages. And another hurricane is readying itself to rain down on Florida. We pray for the thousands of souls suffering under these tragic events.

Was there a day before Helene? It seems like 2024 prior to Helene is a distant memory. I'll attempt to look back and report on what came "before."

Through the end of September, the fiscal year was looking strong, with solid financials, successful programs, and generous donors and volunteers fully engaged.

Mid-summer, we learned the exciting news that we received a grant from Trinity Wall Street to make possible a new program: Kanuga Leadership Residency. The project grant of \$370,000 will fund the creation of a hybrid leadership training program for clergy and lay leaders. The curriculum will advance The Episcopal Church's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

In addition, we completed a thorough capital assessment of Kanuga's buildings, including cottages, guest houses, the Chapel, and group meeting spaces. We prioritized the repairs or reconstruction needed and developed a main campus land plan.

The safety and security team continued its work with a professional consultant to complete revisions to our emergency preparedness procedures, run crisis simulations, and apply for a federal grant to support safety enhancements.

Our program team began work on re-envisioning youth offerings with an eye toward better aligning our traditional programs with current needs of youth across the country.

Infrastructure improvements this year included the following:

- Fishing Pier
- Dam
- Colhoun Room for Children
- Trails
- Cottage Roof Repairs

Foster Educational Garden welcomed weekly Good News Gardens from St. John's in the Wilderness Flat Rock. Together, we tended and harvested organic spices, flowers, and vegetables, donating hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to community members in need. We continued to nourish our honeybee colonies and began a mushroom cultivation project.

We hosted or plan to host a number of conferences, including AwakeningSoul, Renewal, Youth Week, Winterlight, Knitting & Quilting, Iconography, and Freedom to Seek with poet John Roedel and The Rev. Chantal McKinney. We continued the new concert series, "Music in the Pines," with musician-in-residence Simon de Voil as well as An Evening for All Souls. Two service events, Spring Clean and Homecoming, saw volunteers from within the Diocese of Western NC and beyond lending a hand to spruce up the gardens, grounds, and Chapel of The Transfiguration for the season.

We have been blessed and pleased to welcome parishes, dioceses, Spiritual Directors International, Daughters of the King, Good News Gardens of The Episcopal Church, more than 50 weddings, the nationally known Belgian Waffle cycling event, and many businesses and nonprofits. We invited the greater community to join us for special meals celebrating Easter, Mother's Day, and Thanksgiving, and worked with several parishes in our Deanery to host a beautiful Feast of the Ascension event for families. It's truly been a wonderful year.

Now, back to today. Tropical Storm Helene was the most devastating weather event to impact Kanuga since the great flood of 1916. Fortunately, while the damage is great, it is not catastrophic. We will recover. That said, we have significant damage to at least two cottages as well as the lakefront pavilion. Trees are down on several other buildings and some roofs sustained wind damage. The lake level was so high that the lower portion of the pavilion flooded with several feet of water. Operations are temporarily suspended while we assess the damage and plan for the required repairs.

Hundreds have reached out to offer help with what will be a massive clean-up effort. This is deeply meaningful and the time for it will come, once campus is more secure. More immediately, philanthropic support is critical. During the coming months as we await the settlement of insurance claims, cash flow will be low while the need to make repairs will be high.

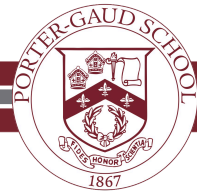
We will soon transition to serve as a resource for the greater community: housing nurses, doctors, first responders and others. Plans are also underway to support parish mission trips to the area for work that will last months, if not years.

Kanuga has always bounced back, by God's grace, and we know that this time we shall yet again. This holy place has been a refuge, a place of respite and renewal for almost 100 years. With God's help, nothing will stop us from preserving the legacy of that mission. My gratitude knows no end.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Michael R. Sullivan  
President / CEO



## **Annual Report**

*Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina*

*Anglican Diocese of South Carolina*

### **Porter-Gaud Mission Statement**

To inspire lives of purpose, learning, and service through cultivating each student's God-given potential.

### **Episcopal Identity at Porter-Gaud**

As an Episcopal School, Porter-Gaud is a Christian community that is upheld by the basic principles of the Baptismal Covenant.<sup>1</sup> This Covenant, as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer, is founded upon the belief that God has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ as a triune community of love - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and that human beings, made in the divine image, are created for communion with this love. From this foundation, the Baptismal Covenant calls individuals and institutions to be incarnate instruments of God's love and grace. True to its Episcopal identity, Porter-Gaud thus seeks to be a community that celebrates and worships God as the center of life and loves our neighbors as ourselves, serving Christ in all persons, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being.

### **Worship**

Worship is one of the most universal and effective expressions of Episcopal identity and community life. Services for all divisions are held weekly for faculty and students, and prayer is offered regularly, both at internal gatherings and public events. When we gather for worship, we immerse ourselves in the traditions, stories, and values that serve as the anchors of our community, seeking to center our hearts and minds around the love of God revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. These gatherings are sensitive to the diversity of religious identities represented within our school while remaining faithful to the Anglican tradition, particularly as articulated in the Book of Common Prayer.

### **Leadership**

Directive of Episcopal identity comes from the Board of Trustees via the school's mission statement and bylaws and is implemented by the Head of School and the Office of the Chaplaincy. The school's governance structure calls for regular review and examination of the school's Episcopal identity by the Board of Trustees. This identity is also to be clearly articulated regularly to all members of the community, particularly at the beginning of each academic year, during the interview and/or orientation process for new board members, faculty, staff, and students, as well as throughout the admissions process for prospective families.

### **Office of the Chaplaincy**

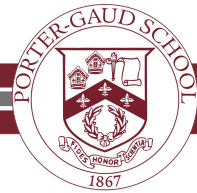
The Rev'd Palmer B. Kennedy - Head Chaplain / Upper School Chaplain

Ms. Abbie Panuccio - Middle School Chaplain

The Rev'd David Rowe - Lower School Chaplain

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for the entirety of the Baptismal Covenant as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer.



## Community Engagement and Belonging

As an embodiment of the Christian faith, Porter-Gaud seeks to celebrate and worship God as the center of life and to honor the dignity of every human being as beloved persons made in the image of God. We affirm the sovereignty of God and seek to be a community where the immeasurable and irreplaceable worth of each person is recognized and unconditional love - a love that doesn't have to be earned - is offered to all. Our traditions and community life flow from this identity and aim to create an environment that welcomes and nurtures the unique capacity of every member of our community to reflect God's love, goodness, beauty, and creativity and to pursue lives of meaning, purpose, and service. In addition to the presence of our chaplains, one of the clearest expressions of this commitment is the Office of Community Engagement and Belonging, which is anchored by and is an extension of our Episcopal identity.<sup>2</sup>

## Religious Diversity

Porter-Gaud stands on the foundation of orthodox Anglican theology rooted in the Christian scriptures and expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. This foundation has an integrity that enables us to be an inclusive community that loves and honors each of our members. The religious diversity of the school community does not create silos or ignore differences. Rather, it provides a magnificent opportunity to foster thoughtful dialogue, humility, empathy, understanding, and respect for the spiritual formation of individuals and families from a variety of faiths and backgrounds. Together, we seek to cultivate a community that embodies the love of God, a love that is unconditional and indiscriminate.

## Academics

As an Episcopal school, Porter-Gaud participates in a tradition with a long and rich history of academic excellence, integrating faith and reason in a graceful and inclusive manner which has been the hallmark of Anglican education for centuries. Our academic curriculum is constructed and implemented in alignment with our Episcopal identity and combines rigorous and free intellectual inquiry with an unapologetic proclamation of faith in a sovereign and loving God. Consistent with our commitment to academic excellence and intellectual development, Porter-Gaud offers the study of religion in a manner that is meaningful, age-appropriate, and as fully rigorous as our other academic offerings. Though the content may overlap, a clear distinction is maintained between gatherings for worship, prayer, and discipleship and the study of religion in the classroom.

## The WATCH Prayer

The WATCH Prayer is a natural outgrowth of the mission of the school, particularly with respect to our Episcopal identity. It is an articulation of (and prayerful supplication for) the principles and moral qualities we - as an Episcopal school - seek to develop in our students.

May our WORDS be full of truth and kindness,  
our ACTIONS gracious and honorable,  
our THOUGHTS unselfish and charitable,  
our CHARACTER noble and upright,  
and our HABITS virtuous,  
that our school family may grow in faith, honor, and knowledge,  
as we WATCH together in all things.  
Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix B for an example of our Episcopal identity serving as the foundation for our Office of Community Engagement and Belonging.

## *The Baptismal Covenant (Book of Common Prayer, 304-305)*

- Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead
- Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*People* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.
- Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*People* I will, with God's help.

## APPENDIX B

### Community Engagement and Belonging Terminology

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Community engagement is the process of identifying and addressing issues affecting the well-being of all members of the community, as well as celebrating the joy of coming together as one. (Romans 12:3-5)

**BELONGING:**

Belonging is an outcome. It means different things to different people and implies the feeling of security, appreciation, support, fair treatment, and acceptance as a beloved member of the community. (Ephesians 2:13-22)

**DIVERSITY:**

The intentional development of school communities where people of different backgrounds, identities, and points of view come together as a body. Diversity is both a source of strength and a primary means of enhancing the intellectual, social, spiritual, and moral life of the school. (Rev. 7:9-10)

**INCLUSION:**

Beyond the sheer presence of a diverse group of people, inclusion is the process by which members of the community honor one another's inherent dignity, welcome many voices (especially those from underrepresented and historically marginalized communities), and work toward the ongoing broadening of the community's horizons. (Romans 15: 5-7)

**EQUITY:**

Equity is the condition where fairness and faithfulness thrive, and all members of the community are respected for their inherent dignity as human beings and capacity to contribute to the building up of the life of the school. Toward that end, we at Porter-Gaud intentionally seek to identify barriers to creating a more equitable community. (Psalm 33:5)

**JUSTICE:**

The courageous and continual attention to and advocacy on behalf of those most vulnerable in the community (Proverbs 31:8; Isaiah 1:17a)

**DIGNITY:**

Dignity speaks to the inherent and unconditional worth of all human beings and the primary lens through which we view each community member. (Gal. 3:28)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

The integration of the ideals and concepts of equity, justice, and a fair society throughout the life of the school; the embracing and honoring of diversity; and the integral inclusion of community service and service-learning. (Isaiah 1:17; I Corinthians 12:26; Philippians 2:3-4)

This document was prepared by Reverend Palmer Kennedy, Porter-Gaud School Head Chaplain, and Dr. Yerko Sepúlveda, Director of Community Engagement and Belonging. The definitions for Community Engagement and Belonging were drafted by the aforementioned Porter-Gaud leaders. The definitions for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Dignity, and Social Justice were adapted from NAES Statement on Inclusion and Episcopal Identity. The Porter-Gaud Board of Trustees adopted this terminology on January 10, 2023.

# ST. CHRISTOPHER

*camp & conference center*

## A Brief History



St. Christopher comprises just over 300 acres on Seabrook Island and operates as a Conference Center, Summer Camp, and center for the Barrier Island Environmental Education program. Our mission is to offer our guests a place for rest, relaxation, and renewal, and to provide a space to encounter the Living Christ.

The history of this property precedes colonization, with the first known inhabitants likely being the Stono Native Americans. Our history as an institution began in 1938, when the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina sponsored a summer camp for underprivileged children. This summer camping tradition has continued, with brief interruptions for a polio outbreak and WWII, for the past 86 years. In 1951, a larger portion of Seabrook Island was donated to the Diocese by the Morowitz family, including the current St. Christopher property. In 1981, St. Christopher founded the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program, a wildly successful program which serves thousands of students, in South Carolina and beyond, throughout the school year. St. Christopher was operated as an Episcopal institution until the 2012 schism, at which point it was operated by the

ACNA Diocese. The Supreme Court decision of 2022 returned St. Christopher to the stewardship of Episcopal Diocese, which has resumed operation and oversight since October 2022. The current Executive Director is the Rev. Laura Rezac, and St. Christopher is operated by a year-round staff of 28 and a seasonal staff that varies in size from 15 to almost 40. All staff who serve at St. Christopher are committed to our mission, and to sharing the love of Christ with all who pass through our gates.

## Conference Center Operations



St. Christopher operates a year-round conference center that offers space for retreats and gatherings of all kinds. We welcome faith-based groups, secular groups, family reunions, and folks who would like to join us for a personal retreat. Many of our groups come back year after year to enjoy the warm hospitality and peaceful surroundings. We have chapels and meeting spaces both large and small, along with 44 lodge rooms, two apartments, and cabins available for overnight stays.

We have been making strategic improvements to our facilities, including constructing a new kitchen facility in our multi-purpose building, Susanna's House. We expect that new kitchen to be operational in early 2025, and we are looking forward to debuting that new and improved space!

Please know that all parishes are warmly invited to enjoy the conference center at St. Christopher. We have special Episcopal rates and would love to welcome parishes for overnight retreats, vestry gatherings, beach days, picnics, youth events, or any other gathering you might like to have here in this holy and beautiful place. If your parish is not ready for a group retreat, please know that individuals are very welcome to make personal retreats to our conference center for rest and renewal of your spirits. Our staff would be delighted to welcome you here!

# Summer Camp



We are pleased to report that our 2024 Summer Camp Season at St. Christopher was a smashing success! We are thrilled to have the continuing leadership of our Summer Camp Director Renzi Ricketts, who assembled a robust team of emerging adults that once again included students from Voorhees University, as well as folks who grew up at St. Christopher and who came to us to experience this community for the first time. The team worked together to create lasting memories and experiences of faith and community for every camper who visited us. From our intentional time spent worshipping in chapel, sailing and paddling on our beautiful waterfront, to aiming for success on our brand new archery range, getting creative with our arts and crafts, to singing, dancing, and laughing while playing noodle hockey. Oh and we can't forget visiting our infamous mud pit and then ending our day with a nice chocolatey slice of mud pie. The best part about camp is connecting with old friends, making new friends and, most importantly, growing in our faith and spirituality. It indeed was a wonderful summer at Camp Saint Christopher! **CAMP BABY CAMP!**



We are so grateful to everyone who supported us this summer through prayers, the parents and guardians who trusted us with their children, the chaplains who taught us about God, to those churches who donated funds and treats for our counselors - it was all much appreciated, and we are so grateful to everyone who made this summer such a success! We couldn't have done it without you!



Looking ahead to this summer, we are thrilled to announce our 2025 camp schedule! **Early registration for Episcopal/ACNA campers will begin on December 2 at 7 am.** **General registration for all campers will open on January 13, 2025 at 7 am.** We invite all children and youth to join us for a week (or more!) this summer, to grow in their faith, make lots of friends, and have FUN! We are planning to offer all kinds of activities, including sailing, paddling, swimming, archery, rock wall, hiking, hammocking, and of course time to worship and sing in our chapel. It's going to be a blast - join us!

Please know also that we are committed to making sure every child can access our programming. Financial aid is available from our institution, and we also encourage all priests to use their discretionary funds as a source of aid for camp tuition for families as well. We do not want finances to be a barrier to attending camp! Every child deserves to learn about God, make new friends, and grow through a camp experience.

# CAMP SAINT CHRISTOPHER

## 2025 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

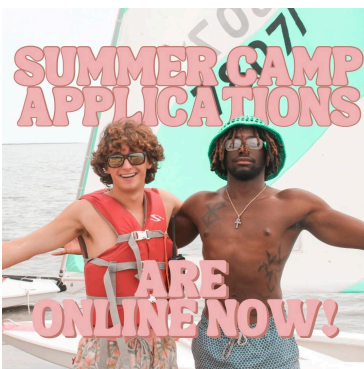
SESSION	DATES	AGES	SESSION	DATES	AGES
1	June 3rd - 5th (2 nights)	Rising 1st - 3rd	7	July 7th - 11th (4 nights)	Rising 7th - 9th
2	June 6th - 8th (2 nights)	Family Camp	8	July 14th - 18th (4 nights)	Rising 3rd - 5th
3	June 10th - 13th (3 nights)	Rising 3rd - 5th	9	July 21st - 25th (4 nights)	Siblings Camp
4	June 16th - 20th (4 nights)	Rising 6th - 8th	10	July 28th - July 31st (3 nights)	Rising 4th - 6th
5	June 23rd - 28th (5 nights)	Rising 9th - 12th	11	Aug. 1st - Aug. 3rd (2 nights)	Family Camp
6	June 30th - July 2nd (2 nights)	Rising 2nd - 5th			

ACNA & EPISCOPAL REGISTRATION 12.2.24 AT 7:00 AM  
 GENERAL REGISTRATION 1.13.25 AT 7:00 AM  
 VISIT [STCHRISTOPHER.ORG](https://www.stchristopher.org) FOR PRICING

*we can't wait to see you again!*

Last but certainly not least, we also are still recruiting counselors and counselors-in-training (high school students). For our counselors, we offer competitive pay and special training opportunities in sailing, archery, paddling, and belaying, along with spiritual formation and ongoing professional support. If you are interested in having the best summer ever, learning skills that will serve you in life and in the workplace, and growing in your faith, join us! Learn more and apply here:

<https://www.stchristopher.org/work-volunteer-at-camp>



# Barrier Island Environmental Education Program

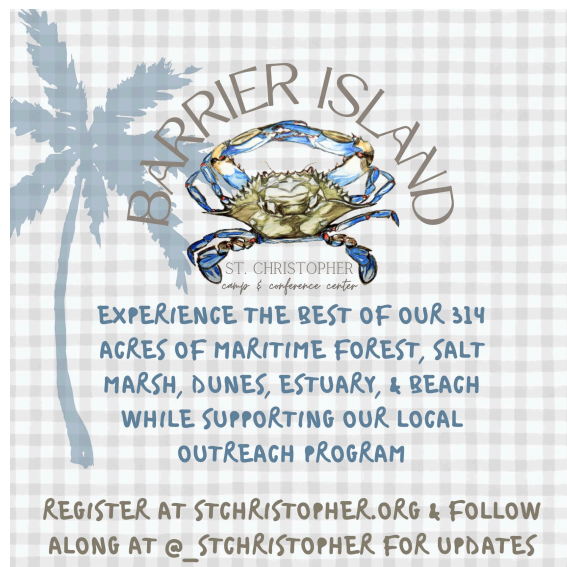


Our Barrier Island Environmental Education Program is in full swing for the fall season. Last spring, we were pleased to hire Jared Crain as the Director of our Barrier Island Program, and Tyler Harris as his Assistant Director. Jared and Tyler have a wealth of experience in environmental education and particular passion for the ministry that happens here at St. Christopher. Not only do they oversee all educational programming for the students who attend BI, they also lead a program of spiritual formation that happens in intentional community with the seasonal naturalists who serve here.

This year, the Barrier Island program has a dedicated team of 15 naturalists, who are all recent college graduates with a passion for environmental education. In addition to their work with students, they also serve at St. Christopher in a variety of other capacities, including playing music in chapel, controlling invasive plant species, caring for the animals in our Herpetarium and Aquarium, engaging in local outreach with Title 1 schools, and even going beyond our gates to help with hurricane relief in Georgia and North Carolina. We are so proud of each young person who has given this year to growing as professionals and as people of faith.



Another area of focus for this team is preparing for our Barrier Island Family Camp in January, and the Barrier Island 5K in April. BI Family Camp is a wonderful way for families with school-age children to enjoy all the fun of a St. Christopher field trip together, and we hope you will consider attending with your families! The 5K takes place on our property and raises funds for scholarships so schools with less financial means can still come and enjoy all the benefits of a Barrier Island trip. We encourage all Episcopalians who might enjoy running (or walking!) this distance to sign up!



## Outdoor Encounters

Our Outdoor Encounters program, led by our BI naturalists, offers kayaking, birding, orienteering, and low ropes experiences for all ages. Join us for time in the great outdoors on our beautiful campus, led by experienced naturalists and outdoor experts.



## Opportunities

There are several ways to connect with St. Christopher, both to experience rest, reflection, and renewal for yourself, and also to support our mission and ministry.

The most important thing you can do for us is pray for our staff, students, campers, and guests. We ask everyone in the diocese to please remember us in your prayers.

For parishes:

- Come join us for a retreat at our conference center!
- Rally friends to join us for the 5K!
- Consider blessing our summer camp team this summer with prayers, cards, snacks, or contributions to bagel bars, pizza parties, or other treats.
- Clergy: please encourage families to come to camp, and use discretionary funds to help! And consider serving as a chaplain for a future summer camp season!

- Also for clergy and lay church professionals: Ask us about our respite rates for Sabbath time here at St. Christopher. Vestries, encourage your staff (including hardworking folks like parish administrators!) to take Sabbath time for their own renewal.

For individuals:

- Join us for a personal retreat for your own rest, restoration, and renewal
- Encourage the children and youth in your life to come to camp, and any emerging adults to consider applying to be a counselor
- Consider serving as a volunteer weekend host - email Rev. Laura for more information! ([lrezac@stchristopher.org](mailto:lrezac@stchristopher.org))
- Ask about our burial ground at St. Christopher if you are looking to make arrangements for final details

Important Dates!

December 2, 2024 - Summer Camp Registration for Episcopal/ACNA families

December 31, 2024 - Deadline to apply to be a Summer Camp Counselor

January 13, 2025 - General Summer Camp Registration Opens

January 24-26 - Barrier Island Family Camp (register now!)

April 26, 2025 - Barrier Island 5K (register now!)

### Contact information

Executive Director: The Rev. Laura Rezac ([lrezac@stchristopher.org](mailto:lrezac@stchristopher.org), 843-768-0429)

Director of Summer Camp: Renzi Ricketts ([rricketts@stchristopher.org](mailto:rricketts@stchristopher.org), 843-768-1337)

Director of Reservations: Sue Mahaffee ([smahaffee@stchristopher.org](mailto:smahaffee@stchristopher.org), 843-768-1337)

Director of the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program AND Outdoor Encounters Contact: Jared Crain ([jcrain@stchristopher.org](mailto:jcrain@stchristopher.org), 843-768-1337)

The University of the South is the only institute of higher education founded and governed by dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The bishops, clergy, and laity of twenty-seven dioceses form the core of the University's Board of Trustees fostering mutually beneficial relationships that make Sewanee a truly unique and special place.

*For more information or to view this report online, visit [episcopal.sewanee.edu](http://episcopal.sewanee.edu)*

## 2023-2024 SEWANEE ALMANAC

### College of Arts & Sciences:

- Total enrollment in the College: **1,681**
- Total aid awarded to College students from Constituent Dioceses: **\$7M**
- Total number of Episcopal College students from all 27 Constituent Dioceses: **1304**

### School of Theology:

- Enrollment in the seminary: **139**
- **100%** of seminarians who applied for financial aid received support
- Constituent Dioceses represented by current seminary student body: **11**

## HOW YOUR DIOCESE SUPPORTS SEWANEE FINANCIALLY

*(Includes Sewanee Fund and capital project gifts for the fiscal year 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024)*

- Diocesan support in FY24: **\$2,000**
- Support from parishes in the diocese: **\$4,800**
- Percentage of parishes in the diocese that made a gift to Sewanee: **8%**

## HOW YOUR DIOCESE ENGAGES WITH SEWANEE

- College students from the diocesan area: **39**
- Seminarians from the diocese: **0**
- School of Theology alumni currently serving in the diocese: **29**
- EfM groups in the diocese: **6**

## YOUR TRUSTEES

- The Rt. Rev. Ruth M. Woodliff-Stanley, bishop
- The Rev. Ryan Currie (2025)
- Laura Marshall (2026)
- Jean McDowell Martin (2027)

### Staff Contacts:

The Rev. Casey Perkins, T'22, Director of Church Relations • 931.598.1316 | [casey.perkins@sewanee.edu](mailto:casey.perkins@sewanee.edu)  
Mary Catherine Alexander, Assistant Director of Church Relations • 931.598.1237 | [mcalexan@sewanee.edu](mailto:mcalexan@sewanee.edu)



# STILL HOPES

Episcopal Retirement Community

## 2024 Annual Report

### Danny Sanford, Chief Executive Officer

This past year has certainly been one of growth and change for Still Hopes. While we continue to find ways to grow on our existing campus, we are also looking outwards to proactively expand our mission beyond the 44 acres we are blessed to call ours here at Still Hopes. While some of our recent years past felt very much like “surviving” in terms of the pandemic, 2024 has been a year where we can focus on thriving, which is a very welcome feeling indeed.

When you look here on our campus, we were able to begin marketing the 16 new cottages that we will add to our community over the next year. Demand for these cottages is strong, and we already have numerous commitments for these new homes, despite official marketing efforts just getting started. We also have a generous resident, Mrs. Susan Boyd, who has graciously donated the funds to build a croquet court and pavilion here at Still Hopes. The end result is stunning, and our residents are eager to begin playing. Our friends at Bishop Gadsden have been a wealth of knowledge when it comes to entering this new croquet world, and we are very grateful for their friendship and guidance.

When you look outside our campus, our efforts at York Place are gaining steam once more. While there has been a bit of a “stall” with our development efforts at York Place, we have been able, through activity of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, to have some honest conversations with the folks who “make things happen” in York, and we are feeling hopeful once more. I am very grateful for the help of Bishop Richards, whose hands on efforts and conversations have made a positive impact on our efforts for York Place.

Much closer to our existing campus, we are moving ahead nicely on our middle market community here in West Columbia. We purchased a ten-acre site that sits adjacent to our campus, which was previously owned by the Lexington II School District. The School District has officially vacated the existing building, which we plan to utilize extensively for our middle market community’s common areas. Our architectural partner, THW, is working to finalize the community layout and we feel confident we can have residents moving into this new community in 2027.

Still Hopes’ Mission is to provide a faith-based community where life will be rich and full as God intends it to be, holding to our values, serving one another with dedication, and promoting health and wellness for all. We are excited to not just further this Mission here at Still Hopes, but in areas beyond our campus. Your support means everything to our success, and we thank you for your continued kindness and prayers. It is my honor to bring you this report and to continue to serve this wonderful ministry organization.

Blessings,

## **Voorhees University: *An Episcopal HBCU***

### **Executive Summary**

In my fourth year (senior year) of service as its 10th President and CEO, I am honored to serve at the helm of historic Voorhees University, the first HBCU founded by an African American woman, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright in 1897. I deem it a privilege and blessing to serve and propel Voorhees University to its next level of greatness, impact, and excellence. I am delighted to share the vision for advancing the institution and updates on our collected accomplishments – but by the grace of God. We are especially proud to celebrate our 100-year affiliation with the Episcopal Church. Indeed, To God be the Glory!

Ronnie Hopkins, Ph.D., 10<sup>th</sup> President and CEO

### **I. The VISION of Voorhees University**

Voorhees University will be globally recognized as a premier, comprehensive liberal arts institution focused on student success, excellence, integrity, service leadership, diversity, faith, social and environmental justice and equity anchored in the embrace of Beloved Community.

### **II. The MISSION of Voorhees University**

Voorhees University is a private historically black liberal arts institution affiliated with the Episcopal church, whose mission is to produce highly qualified graduates who coalesce intellect and faith in pursuit of life-long learning, healthy living, the betterment of society, and an abiding faith in God.

### **III. VALUES of Voorhees University TIGERS**

T – Transformation (Innovation)

I – Integrity

G – Generativity

E – Excellence/Engagement/Equity

R – Resolution/Resolve

S – Servanthood/Stewardship/Social Justice

#### **IV. STRATEGIC GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- ❖ Teaching and Learning
- ❖ Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
- ❖ Creativity and Innovation
- ❖ Outreach and Engagement
- ❖ Resource Stewardship
- ❖ Becoming Beloved Community

#### **V. CORE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Strategic Priority 1: **Academic Excellence & Student Success**

Strategic Priority 2: **Talent Acquisition**

Strategic Priority 3: **Leverage/Leadership**

Strategic Priority 4: **Accountability**

Strategic Priority 5: **Stability and Sustainability**

#### **VI. Update on Cores Strategic Priorities**

##### **Strategic Priority 1: Academic Excellence & Student Success**

- ❖ Voorhees University offers 18 undergraduate degrees: Accounting, Biology, Business Administration, Child Development, Criminal Justice, Computer Science/Cyber Security, English, Environmental Science, Hotel and Hospitality Management, Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology, Public Health, Sociology, Sports Management, Emergency Management/Homeland Security, Mass Communication, Organizational Management, and Theological Studies.
- ❖ The University offers two master's degrees: The Master of Education in Teaching and Learning and the Master of Business Administration.
- ❖ The University has been approved by the South Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges (SACSCOC) to advance to Level 5 to offer the first doctoral degree program. The Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in Higher Education and Pk-12 launched in fall 2024 with 40 students in the first cohort.
- ❖ In October 2024, the South Carolina State Department of Education will confirm approval for the University as a Charter School Authorizer to administer the Voorhees University Charter Institute of Learning.

##### **Strategic Priority 2: Talent Acquisition: Recent Service Appointments**

- ❖ The Reverend Marie-Carmel Chery has completed nearly one year of dedicated

service as the Dean of the Chapel and Spiritual Engagement and Vicar of St. Phillips Chapel

- ❖ Dr. Damara Hightower Mitchell has been appointed as the full time CEO of the Voorhees University Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation (CPI). The aims of the CPI are to: (1) Create equitable learning outcomes for students in underserved, high-need areas and subjects by creating innovative pathways and models for increasing teacher effectiveness, (2) Address teacher shortages, and (3) Diversify the Teaching Workforce in South Carolina and the Nation.
- ❖ Dr. Angela Peters has been appointed as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- ❖ Dr. Syed Hasnain has been appointed as the Associate Provost for VU Global (Online Education).
- ❖ Dr. Cheryl Swainer has been appointed Dean of the School of Science, Technology, Health and Human Services.
- ❖ Charlene Johnson has been appointed Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics.
- ❖ Adrian West has been appointed Vice President for Student Affairs.
- ❖ Dr. Prince Brown has been appointed as Special Assistant to the President for Philanthropy and Giving Leadership
- ❖ Dwayne Smiling has been appointed as Special Assistant to the President for Beloved Community and Governmental Relations
- ❖ Chancey Daniels has been appointed as Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives

### **Strategic Priority 3: Leverage/Leadership: Voorhees University as Beloved Community**

Inspired by The Most Reverend Michael Curry, the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate and the first African American Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the strategic plan addresses the critical development of strengthening beloved community. The Becoming Beloved Community Initiative at Voorhees University includes the following major platforms: (1) implementation of the Institutes for Social and Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion, (2) establishment of the Center for Women's Advancement and Empowerment, (3) launch of the Rural Community Development Institute, (3) enhanced support and partnership with local and surrounding school districts, (4) strengthening partnerships between historic Voorhees University and Saint Augustine's University, the only two remaining Episcopal HBCUs in the nation.

The motivation for the Institutes for Social and Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion at Voorhees University is to inculcate social and environmental change as a critical part of the very fabric of the institution. Inspiration from the following quote and

scriptures direct the agenda: "The fierce urgency of now! " Martin Luther King, Jr.; "Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder. You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them." (Psalm 82:3 Message Bible), and "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow- 't (Isaiah 1:17 NIV)- The Institute will proactively engage in promising practices to optimize transformative considerations in social and environmental justice and actively implement a social and environmental change plan that will directly engage students, faculty, staff, and community constituents

To our dismay, the City of Denmark and the County of Bamberg in South Carolina, the home of Voorhees University, hold the infamous federal designation as a Promise Zone and an Empowerment Zone rendering the areas among the poorest in the nation. As an act of Beloved Community, the strategic plan views the current disposition as an opportunity to employ the Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI) at Voorhees University. The impetus for the RCDI is anchored in Matthew 25: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. " (Matthew 25 NIV). The RCDI will conduct the Voorhees University Community-wide Needs Assessment in the City of Denmark, Bamberg County, and surrounding areas to frame our intentional work and engagement alongside our beloved community members. The University seeks to expand experiential learning opportunities for students and faculty, and to aggressively search for federal and other external funding to support our campus and external communities and establish systemic means of Becoming Beloved Community.

#### **Strategic Priority 4: Accountability**

In order to promote and sustain accountability, the University has focused on the following: (1) Developing a planning process that guides decision-making including divisional goals and strategies aligned with the University's strategic plan, (2) Engaging our students in a technology-augmented living and learning environment that nurtures their well-being, empowers their academic success, and inspires them to be proactive leaders and contributors to society, (3) Committing to mentoring and support for the success and professional development of faculty and staff to ensure that processes recruiting, hiring, and promotion are inclusive and follow research-based practices for avoiding bias. (4) Developing strategic and transparent allocations of resources, and (5) Maintaining and strengthening the accreditations of the Institution.

#### **Strategic Priority 5: Stability and Sustainability**

As a demonstration of stability and sustainability, Voorhees University is honored to celebrate a 100-year affiliation with the Episcopal Church. To further accomplish stability and sustainability, the University is committed to: (1) Optimizing institutional resources to ensure quality and efficiency in all Institutional operations by implementing baseline budgeting focused on strategic initiatives and strengthening programs, (2) Increasing external support revenue from private sources by engaging alumni, friends, and corporate partners to expand support for the people, places, and programs of the Institution, including a comprehensive capital fundraising campaign, (3) Expanding funding sources to enhance resources through grants and contracts from federal and state agencies, corporations, and foundations, (4) Being good stewards by evaluating and prioritizing deferred building maintenance and renovation as well as technological upkeep and innovations to ensure the Institution does not incur greater costs in the future, and (5) Building and implementing a university-level brand platform that clearly establishes a distinct position for the university among our peers.

## VII. Institutional Data Points

### Current Enrollment

Level	Fall 2024 Headcount	Fall 2024 FTE
Undergraduate	443	437
Graduate	155	149
Total	598	586

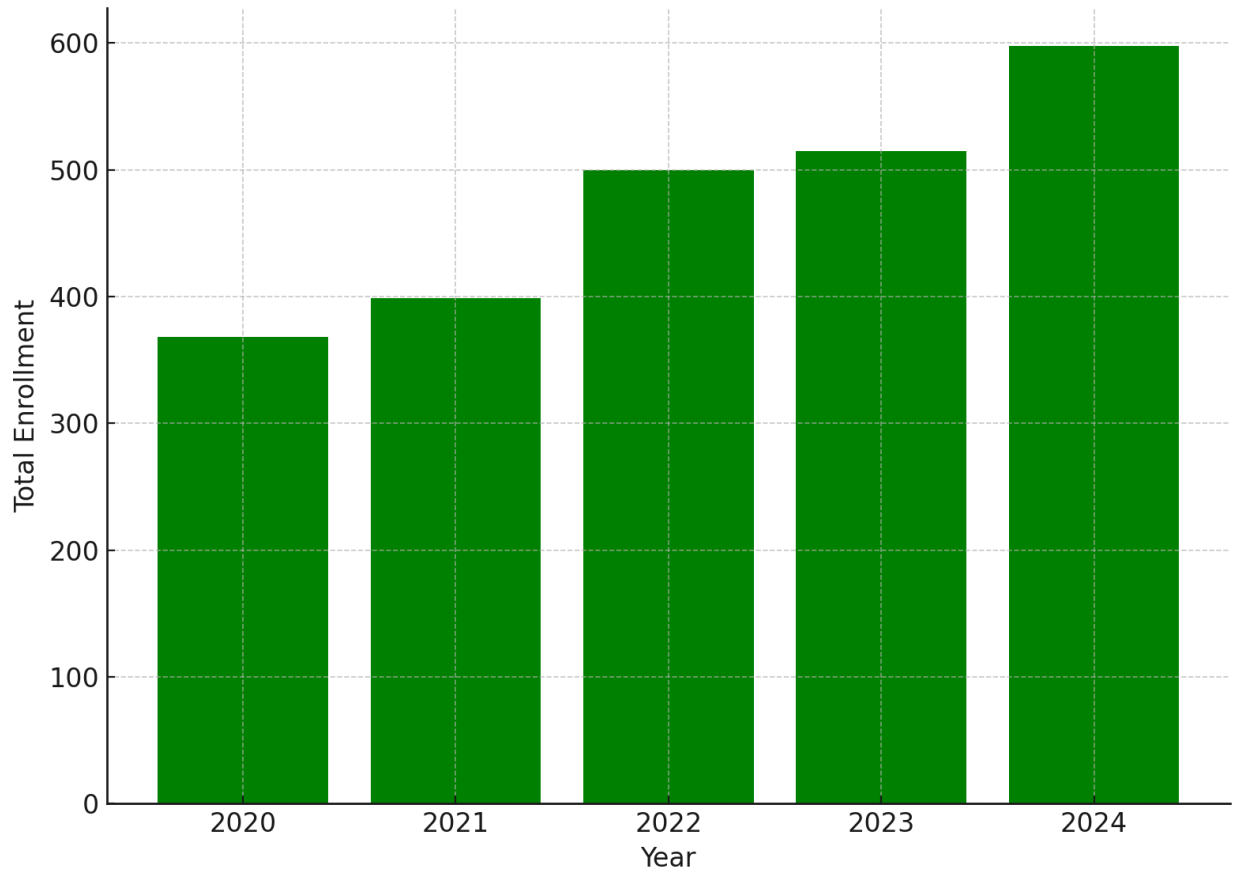
### Five-Year FTE and Headcount Trend

Term	FTE	Headcount
F2020	359	368
F2021	368	399
F2022	476	500
F2023	488	515
F2024	586	598

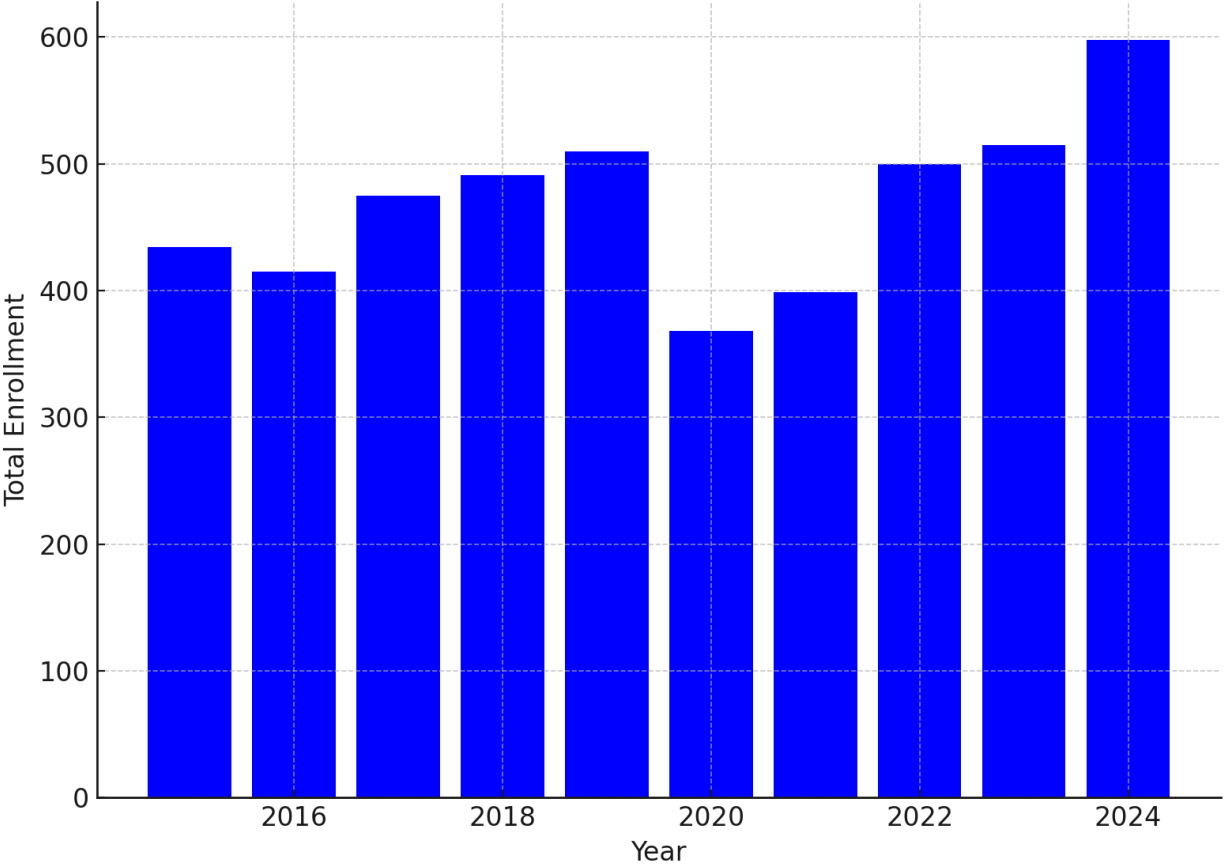
### Projected Enrollment

Fall Semester
2027 Projection
2026 Projection
2025 Projection
2024 Actual
2023 Actual

5-Year Enrollment Trend (2020 - 2024)



10-Year Enrollment Trend (2015 - 2024)



**VIII. Selected Chapel Services and Spiritual Engagement --**  
***"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." (Palms 122:1)***

Sunday, September 29, 2024

- ❖ Dean Marie-Carmel Chery preached at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, Edisto, SC. The Church offering was dedicated to Voorhees University.
- ❖ Voorhees University Concert Choir performed at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, Columbia SC in its Annual Youth and Young Adult Ministry programs.
- ❖ President Ronnie Hopkins was the keynote speaker at the College Day Worship Service at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Dillon, SC. The University's Male Ensemble, the TigerNaires performed the music for the service.
- ❖ Elder Antoine Jackson, Youth Pastor and Songstress Regina Skeeters, Director of Worship and Arts Ministry of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, Columbia SC preached and performed at the on campus weekly Chapel service on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 hosted by the President's Student Advisory Council.
- ❖ Members of the Voorhees University family worshipped at Christ Church, Denmark SC with Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley preaching and facilitating Confirmation to two new congregants on Sunday, September 22, 2024.
- ❖ Rev. Adam Lamont China, Pastor of Flat Rock AME Church in Abbeville, SC. Preached at the on campus weekly Chapel service hosted by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Zeta Gamma Chapter) and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (Theta Epsilon Chapter) on Tuesday, September 11, 2024.

## **IX. Recent Activities and Accomplishments –**

**“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)**

- ❖ Voorhees University has been recognized in the UNCF's (United Negro College Fund) 2024 HBCU Economic Impact Report, showcasing its vital role as an economic powerhouse in South Carolina. The report highlights Voorhees' significant contributions to job creation, business support, and the upliftment of local communities, reinforcing the university's impact far beyond education. The University provides over \$17 million of support to the local region through employment and services.
- ❖ Voorhees University Foundress, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was inducted into the National Black College Hall of Fame, Saturday, September 28, 2024 and stands as the only founder of an HBCU to hold said distinction.
- ❖ Mr. Lawrenz Ellman-Sanders, Senior, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship major from Greenville, South Carolina and a White House Initiative Scholar attended the 2024 White House HBCU Scholar Initiative as part of the National HBCU Week Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Among 110 scholars from HBCUs across the country, Lawrenz participated in the NASA MITTIC Pitch Competition. With only 3 days to brainstorm, develop, and pitch, Lawrenz and his team created Flow Go – "Your period, your campus, your way." This all-inclusive menstrual product app is designed to improve access to menstrual products across HBCU campuses. In addition to Ellman-Sanders, the team, consisting of Khelsie Dorsett-Wilson (North Carolina A&T), Alonnie Celestine & Osoniya Wodi (Xavier University of Louisiana) and Chantel Ilawole (Cheyney University) worked diligently to develop and present their innovative solution. Their hard work paid off as they won the NASA MITTIC Pitch Competition, securing the \$10k Grand Prize!
- ❖ President Ronnie Hopkins and Vice President Dr. Corey Amaker welcomed the Department of Energy's Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program (MSIPP) to create and support sustainable career pathways that prepare a diverse workforce of talented students for the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) on September 23, 2024.

- ❖ The first-ever Voorhees University Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony was full of energy, fun, and fellowship as the inaugural class was inducted on September 7, 2024.
- ❖ Voorhees VOTES: Voorhees University has facilitated several voter registration drives and hosted a Presidential Debate Watch Party with over 100 students in attendance.
- ❖ With Senator Tamioka Issac-Divine as keynote speaker, Voorhees University celebrated our 128th Opening Convocation, a day filled with inspiration, pride and community on September 5, 2024.

*Humbly Submitted by Ronnie Hopkins, Ph.D. – 10<sup>th</sup> President and CEO*  
To God be the Glory!



# THE DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

COMPANIONS IN MISSION

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The Dominican Development Group (DDG) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit established in 1999 to assist in the ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. The mission of the DDG is to foster sustainable resource development and create a bridge for meaningful mission partnerships. Current DDG partners include The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, The Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas, The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, The Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana, and The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

In 2024 dozens of teams from South Carolina, New York, Louisiana, Nebraska, Georgia, North Carolina, Connecticut, and Florida participated in mission experiences through the DDG with the Dominican Episcopal Church. Projects included playground construction, vacation bible school, carpentry (building of new church pews and podiums), eye clinics (including cataract surgery), medical clinics (for all ages), painting and refreshing of church buildings, care of the elderly, neighborhood cleanups, and most importantly relationship building. All mission projects are developed by the Dominican diocesan office under the direction of Bishop Moises Quezada. These projects align to help further the mission of the church in loving and serving the people of the Dominican Republic especially the most vulnerable.

The DDG is currently accepting applications for teams for 2025 and will be hosting an exploratory pilgrimage January 16th – 23rd. The pilgrimage is a time to explore the ministry of the Dominican Episcopal Church with a small group of people in an intentional way. This year, pilgrims will be traveling to the southside of the island to the east and west of Santo Domingo. All are welcome to attend. Please contact [cwallace@domincandevlopmentgroup.org](mailto:cwallace@domincandevlopmentgroup.org) for more information.

–Christy Wallace, Executive Director



2025 Proposed Budget				
			Cola increase	3%
	2024	2024 - Q3 Actual	Proposed 2025	Comments/Notes
<b>Receipts</b>				
Parishes and Missions	\$650,000.00	\$474,023.19	\$750,000.00	have more churches work towards 10%
Individuals & Institutions	\$26,250.00	\$200.00	\$100,000.00	increased focus on fundraising
Other Income	\$1,500.00	\$29,723.57	\$1,500.00	Interest, registrations, etc...
TEC Grant for Voorhees	\$120,000.00	\$184,500.23	\$120,000.00	Support for Voorhees Chaplain
Trust Fund Disbursements	\$844,924.75	\$600,000.00	\$799,970.92	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$1,642,674.75</b>	<b>\$1,288,446.99</b>	<b>\$1,771,470.92</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Through the Liberating Gospel of Jesus</b>				
Communications	\$25,000.00	\$2,603.55	\$20,000.00	
Deanery Meetings	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
Diocesan Publication	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Director of Communications	\$104,100.62	\$78,865.05	\$107,581.08	3/4 time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,350.62</b>	<b>\$81,468.60</b>	<b>\$129,581.08</b>	
<b>We are seeking justice</b>				
Racial Reconciliation & Social Justice	\$10,000.00	\$8,757.09	\$10,000.00	Work of the Racial Justice Commission
Other Justice Ministry	\$0.00	\$5,979.03	\$30,000.00	Latino and Immigrant Ministry Development, LGBTQ+
Partnership with the Province of West Africa	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	Continued support
Voorhees University	\$2,500.00	\$9,787.03	\$5,000.00	add'l available from Voorhees TEC grant
Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
Dominican Development Group	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	
Lowcountry Community Chaplaincy	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
Ecumenical Ministry	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Fellowship of SC Bishops
Canon for Justice and Future Leaders	\$147,799.95	\$110,436.05	\$152,752.83	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
Dean of Chapel and Spiritual Engagement	\$102,650.07	\$76,520.64	\$100,822.68	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$274,700.02</b>	<b>\$215,479.84</b>	<b>\$317,075.50</b>	
<b>Spreading Christ's Love</b>				
Leadership Training and Resources	\$0.00	\$3,572.53	\$7,000.00	Leadership Retreat, Affinity Groups
Clergy Conference	\$6,000.00	\$17,702.41	\$6,000.00	Annual retreat
College Ministry Program	\$42,000.00	\$10,045.86	\$10,000.00	Citadel ministry and building College of Charleston
Renewal of Vows	\$1,000.00	\$91.02	\$1,000.00	Annual event during Holy Week
Retired Clergy Gathering	\$1,000.00	\$844.33	\$1,000.00	
Youth Programming	\$12,000.00	\$7,489.05	\$5,000.00	no EYE this year
Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	added by Diocesan Council
Scholarships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Funds from designated trust fund
Conference & Education Fees	\$1,500.00	\$816.50	\$2,500.00	Support for non-staff members
Mileage Reimbursement	\$1,500.00	\$2,160.92	\$2,500.00	Support for non-staff members
Chaplain to the Retired	\$30,000.00	\$28,581.03	\$35,400.00	Part time position plus pension
Canon for Strategy and Vitality	\$61,242.64	\$43,840.53	\$63,445.76	1/2 time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$156,242.64</b>	<b>\$115,144.18</b>	<b>\$185,845.76</b>	
<b>Walking humbly with our God</b>				
Annual Diocesan Convention	\$10,000.00	\$11,387.56	\$10,000.00	Will host at non-hotel location to reduce costs
Background Checks	\$1,500.00	\$1,320.75	\$1,500.00	
Commission on Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$2,025.12	\$2,500.00	Funds from designated trust fund
EFM	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	Education for Ministry
Parish & Missions Grant Support	\$200,000.00	\$180,221.11	\$175,000.00	
Seminarian Support	\$6,000.00	\$3,250.00	\$6,000.00	Funds from designated trust fund
Berkeley Divinity School at Yale	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Funds from designated trust fund
Kanuga	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
Porter Gaud Support	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	

University of the South	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Funds from designated trust fund
Synod Meeting	\$5,000.00	\$2,884.56	\$0.00	no meeting in 2025
Province IV Assessment	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
The Episcopal Church	\$90,000.00	\$0.00	\$116,896.35	Pledge to The Episcopal Church
Canon for Common Mission	\$155,071.95	\$115,173.96	\$162,136.83	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
Canon to the Ordinary	\$50,012.00	\$38,360.05	\$77,488.00	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$533,883.95</b>	<b>\$354,623.11</b>	<b>\$561,821.18</b>	
<b>Administrative</b>				
Annual Audit	\$14,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,000.00	Past audits
ACS Database Software	\$6,500.00	\$6,011.41	\$0.00	Moved to Quickbooks
Bookkeeper	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Moved to Comptroller
Bank Service & Vanco Charges	\$3,000.00	\$978.86	\$3,000.00	
Chancellor Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$450.00	\$1,000.00	
Church Insurance & Surety Bond	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	Diocesan only. moving congregations to their own plan
Software & Internet Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$7,065.12	\$6,000.00	Moved to Quickbooks
Computer equipment	\$2,500.00	\$2,879.27	\$5,000.00	increase to provide for 2 staff computers per year
Meetings & Meals	\$4,000.00	\$5,918.01	\$6,000.00	
Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,088.36	\$2,000.00	
Payroll Processing Fee & Other Services	\$2,700.00	\$4,679.36	\$2,700.00	includes returning congregations and St Christopher
Postage & P.O. Box Annual Fee	\$650.00	\$557.99	\$650.00	
Office Maintenance	\$0.00	\$1,747.02	\$780.00	Added for cleaning of Calvary office
Office Resources	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Rent Expense - Grace	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	Bishop's office
Rent Expense - Calvary	\$36,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$36,000.00	Satellite office
Telecommunications	\$2,000.00	\$2,673.69	\$2,000.00	8x8 phone system
TENS	\$1,000.00	\$1,199.00	\$1,200.00	The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
Workers Compensation	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	part of insurance bill
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,033.74	\$1,000.00	
Misc Diocesan Gifts & Memorials	\$3,000.00	\$2,941.42	\$3,000.00	Prayer books for confirmands
Comptroller	\$82,964.00	\$43,132.74	\$110,856.55	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$193,414.00</b>	<b>\$101,355.99</b>	<b>\$208,286.55</b>	
<b>Episcopate</b>				
Bishop Salary and Benefits	\$238,831.34	\$183,557.25	\$248,541.84	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
Bishop Office, Travel, and Entertainment (Diocesan)	\$8,500.00	\$27,272.37	\$12,500.00	
Bishop Travel, Conferences and Retreat (Outside the diocese)	\$14,600.00	\$22,833.39	\$15,600.00	
Bishop's Executive Assistant	\$90,152.19	\$68,359.88	\$92,219.01	full time employee plus benefits, travel, etc...
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$352,083.52</b>	<b>\$302,022.89</b>	<b>\$368,860.85</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,642,674.75</b>	<b>\$1,170,094.61</b>	<b>\$1,771,470.92</b>	
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
Bishop Discretionary	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	Some funds from designated trust fund
Bishop Search	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pause for a year
Lambeth Conference	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pause for a year
Legal Expenses	\$75,000.00	\$95,634.73	\$90,000.00	
Ministry Grants Committee	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Redesigning grant program
General Convention/Deputies	\$20,000.00	\$36,371.07	\$15,000.00	Lower costs with shorter convention
Sabbatical Reserved Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Reserve for diocesan staff
Recapitalizing the Diocese Toward Mission & Growth	\$2,738,200.00	\$1,250,000.00		
Tier 1 - Returning Congregations			\$1,208,462.00	
Tier 2 - Congregations where churches were not returned			\$675,000.00	additional for church planting
Tier 3 - Historically disenfranchised congregations			\$250,000.00	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,831,700.00</b>	<b>\$2,831,700.00</b>	<b>\$2,248,462.00</b>	

## **Proposed Resolutions 234th Annual Convention**

**#01**

### **Resolution Text**

Resolved, That the 234th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina permit the appointment or election of youth liaison officers to have seat and voice on vestries or mission councils of congregations, who must be no less than 16 years old and confirmed; and moreover, that the Convention permit parishes and missions to lower the eligibility age to vote at annual parish and mission meetings to 16 years.

### **Explanation**

As the Diocese has already previously lowered the age for eligible delegates from 18 to 16, it is only logical to likewise empower our older youth to enjoy the benefits of canonical adulthood, which The Episcopal Church has established to be at 16, as far as permitted by state and national laws. If we are dutiful to our promises made at the baptisms and confirmations of children and youth to support, educate, and guide them in the faith, we need to be fully inclusive of them in the governance of the holy church when they meet the canonical age of eligibility and are confirmed. This change would also fit the vision of a patron saint of our Diocese, William Guerry, who famously said, "If we are to be truly catholic, as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within its communion every living human soul."

**#02****Resolution Text**

Resolved, That the 234<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina promote the acknowledgement of indigenous lands and the acknowledgement of peoples of African descent who may have been enslaved on those lands in its gatherings and worship.

**Explanation**

The acknowledgement of the lands on which we worship, pray, work, and live our lives helps us to appreciate that we have relationships that have not been fully understood or acknowledged. We proclaim that our church “Welcomes All”, yet at the same time, we do not acknowledge that the lands on which we conduct our lives have a troubled history, including the dispossession of the land from its earlier inhabitants and the enslavement of peoples of African descent in the agricultural and industrial production of the land. The ancestors of the land are among the “Great Cloud of Witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1). This resolution serves to acknowledge those witnesses as we move toward a more Beloved Community as the Body of Christ.

### **#03**

#### **Resolution Text**

Resolved, That the Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina celebrates the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven and the bishops that ordained them on July 29, 1974, and offers appreciation for their ministry and the ministry of all women in the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge and give thanks to the women who have been called the “Philadelphia Eleven”: the Rev. Merrill Bittner, the Rev. Alla Bozarth-Campbell, the Rev. Alison Cheek, the Rev. Emily Hewitt, the Rev. Carter Heyward, the Rev. Suzanne Hiatt, the Rev. Marie Moorefield, the Rev. Jeanette Piccard, the Rev. Betty Schiess, the Rev. Katrina Swanson, and the Rev. Nancy Wittig; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge and give thanks to the bishops who presided over their ordination, the Rt. Rev. Daniel Corrigan, the Rt. Rev. Robert DeWitt, and the Rt. Rev. Edward Welles II; and be it further

Resolved, That we give thanks to the women priests who have been ordained in the Diocese of South Carolina: The Rev. Joye Cantrell; The Rev. Jennie Olbrych; The Rev. Sally Putnam; The Rev. Cynthia Taylor; The Rev. Callie Walpole; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina commit itself to a vision in which all God’s people may see their gender reflected among those called to ordained ministry in this church.

#### **Explanation**

The ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven represents a profoundly important moment in the history of our church. For fifty years faithful women have now lived out their callings among us as priests. The Diocese of South Carolina has been blessed by the ministry of women priests and—for the first time in our history—a woman bishop. Inspired by their witness, we look forward in faith to the day in which all obstacles are removed from the Lord’s call to service and discipleship for all people.