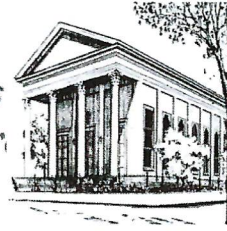


*Saint Mark's
Episcopal Church*



233rd Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

As Dean of the Peninsula Deanery, on behalf of the laity and clergy of the Deanery hosting the 233rd Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, I welcome you to convention.

The theme of this year's convention is "TESTIFY," and since we last gathered in convention, we certainly have a lot to testify about... all *Good News!*

Most if not all of the legal disputes which for the past decade have kept us mired down in schism, have been resolved. *Good News.*

Since April, a Strategic Visioning Team created by our Bishop has been hard at work developing priorities and a plan for implementation of strategies for our diocese coming out of schism, with a shared unified message about who we are as the Episcopal Church in South Carolina, that will be shared during our time together. *Good News.*

In our time together, we'll be blessed with the presence and counsel of both Sophronia Scott, our keynote speaker, and our Convention preacher, The Very Rev. Michael Battle, who will counsel and inspire us, as we enter into this new season of ministry in the Lowcountry. *Good News.*

And of course, we gather together as family once again, this time at one of the historic properties recently returned to us, St. James Episcopal Church, just across the street from our beautiful Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community, that we might share with one another the challenges faced and also the hope and promise of an exciting future moving forward as God's Beloved Community. *Good News* indeed.

So, join us in convention, as we TESTIFY to the Good News of Jesus Christ as the people of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Beloved Community, welcoming everyone regardless of race, ethnicity or sexual orientation, as we walk humbly with God, seek justice and spread Christ's love throughout the Lowcountry.

Yours in Christ,

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer
Dean of the Peninsula Deanery
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
Interim Rector – St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston



The Diocese of South Carolina
 The 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention
 The Peninsula Deanery & St. James Episcopal Church, Charleston

Thursday, November 2, 2023

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 2:00 pm | Registration begins and continues until 3:45 pm | |
| 3:00 pm | Meet the Nominees Session | |
| 3:00 pm | Commission on Ministry meets in the Choir Room | |
| 4:00 pm | First Business Session: Call to Order | The Right Reverend Woodliff-Stanley |
| | Appointment of Parliamentarian | 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 Rev. Laura Rezac |
| | Certification of Quorum | Ms. Diane Wilson, Secretary of Convention |
| | Acknowledgement of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor | Bishop Woodliff-Stanley |
| | Election of the Treasurer | Bishop Woodliff-Stanley |
| | Confirmation the Secretary | Bishop Woodliff-Stanley |

Appointment of Regional Deans	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
Application for Parish Status Referred to Committee Good Shepherd Summerville	Ms. Diane Wilson
First Report of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons	Ms. Melinda Kelley Vice-Chancellor
First Report of the Committee on Admission of New Parishes and Missions	Ms. Diane Wilson
Welcoming of Speakers	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
5:00 pm Opening Eucharist at St. James Reception to follow in the St. James Center	

Friday, November 3, 2023

8:00 am	Registration resumes until 8:45 am	
9:00 am	Morning Prayer	
9:15 am	Second Business Session: Call to Order	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report of the Lay Credentials Committee	Mr. Philip Powell
	Second Report of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons	Ms. Melinda Kelley
	First Report of the Resolutions Committee	The Rev. Katie Presley
	Recognition of Institutions Report from Voorhees University	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, President
	Report from Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community	Ms. Sarah Tipton President and CEO
	<i>Break</i>	
10:30 am	Plenary Session	Ms. Sophronia Scott
11:55 am	Noonday Prayers and Grace	
12:00 pm	Working Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COM meets in Choir Room • “Normal Grief: The Things We Do To Get Through A Difficult Loss,” presented by the Rev. Jeff Wallace, Certified Grief Counselor in the Convention Room 	

1:15 pm	Workshops	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Gadsden Tour • St. Christopher Outdoor Encounter • Foundation for Spirituality and the Arts <i>Artist Talk—Graeme Mortimer Evelyn</i> • Michael Battle on Restorative Justice • Sophronia Scott on Thomas Merton 	<p>Meet at front steps</p> <p>Meet at back patio</p> <p>Convention Room</p> <p>Chapel (St. James Center)</p> <p>Church (main sanctuary)</p>
2:15 pm	<i>Break</i>	
2:30 pm	Third Business Session: Call to Order	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report of the Nominating Committee	The Very Rev. Dow Sanderson
	Elections	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Recognition of New Clergy, Leaders, and Seminarian	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report of the Commission on Ministry	The Rev. Courtney Davis-Shoemaker The Rev. Charles Jenkins
	Report of the Elections Committee <i>Second ballot if needed</i>	The Rev. Taylor Smith
	Report of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission	Ms. Gail DeCosta The Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker
	Report from St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center	The Rev. Laura Rezac
	Reports from International Partners	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report from Sewanee: The University of the South	The Rev. Cn. Ryan Currie
<i>Break</i>	<i>Members of the Standing Committee (including the newly elected) meet briefly in the Choir Room</i>	
4:00 pm	Afternoon Devotions Third Business Session Continues	
	Bishop's Address	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report of the Strategic Visioning Team	Ms. Deb Harris Ms. Ray Sabalis
5:15 pm	Food Truck Social with Live Music	

Saturday, November 4, 2023

8:30 am	Registration resumes until 8:45 am	
9:00 am	Youth-led Morning Prayer	
9:15 am	Fourth Business Session: Call to Order	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Recognition of Parish Status Good Shepherd Summerville	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	Report of Youth and Youth Commission	Diocesan Youth
	Report of the Chancellor	Mr. Skip Utsey
	Report of the Standing Committee	The Rev. Cn. Rob Donehue
	Report of the Treasurer	Mr. Barry Ronan
	Report of the Diocesan Council on the Budget	The Rev. Denise Trogdon
	Bishop's Cross Awards	Bishop Woodliff-Stanley
	<i>Short Break</i>	
10:05 am	Panel Discussion: "Generation to Generation" Bishop Woodliff-Stanley in conversation with Michael Battle and Sophronia Scott	
11:05 am	Business Session Resumes	
	Second Report of the Committee on Resolutions Courtesy Resolutions	The Rev. Katie Presley Ms. Ellen Hardin
	Necrology Report	The Rev. Jennie Olbrych
	Invitation to the 234th Convention	
	Benediction & Adjournment	

The Commission on Ministry will hold a Meet-and-Greet session for those interested in discernment processes and other aspects of their work immediately following Convention in the Choir Room.



Committee Appointments 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention

Constitution and Canons

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

Credentials – Clergy

The Rev. Laura Rezac, Chair
The Rev. Fred Thompson
The Rev. Michael Bye

Credentials – Lay

Mr. Phil Powell, Chair
Ms. Laura Marshall
Mr. Barry Dennis

Elections (host priest, two non-voting tellers)

The Rev. Taylor Smith, Chair
Ms. Georgie Skover
Ms. Yvonne Jordan

Finance

Mr. Bill Beak
The Rev. Pam Fahrner
Mr. Mike Jefferson
Ms. Barbara Mann
Mr. Mark Szen, ex-officio
Mr. Barry Ronan, Chair, ex-officio
Cn. Andrea McKellar, ex-officio

Necrology

The Rev. Dr. Jennie Olbrych

New Parishes and Missions

The Rev. Denise Trogdon
The Rev. Joseph Smith
Mr. Bryce Chambliss
Ms. Diane Wilson
Mr. Skip Utsey, ex officio
Ms. Melinda Kelley, ex officio

Nominations

The Rev. Adam Shoemaker
Ms. Vermelle Simmons
The Very Rev. Dow Sanderson, Chair
Mr. Mike Goodin
The Rev. Eunice Dunlap
Mr. Mike Roberts
The Very Rev. Roy Tripp
Ms. Alison Davidow

Resolutions

The Rev. Bill Watson
The Rev. Katie Presley, Chair
Ms. Carrington Wingard
Ms. Ellen Hardin
Mr. Skip Utsey, ex officio
Ms. Melinda Kelley, ex officio



Proposed Resolutions

The Diocese of South Carolina
The 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention

Resolved that the 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina lower the minimal eligible age from 18 to 16 for individuals who may be elected as members of a Vestry or Mission Council. They must remain Confirmed individuals. Moreover, the eligibility age to vote at Annual Parish Meetings or Mission Meetings is likewise lowered to 16.

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 ALL the benefits of canonical adulthood, which the international Episcopal Church has established to be at 16. 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 with Confirmation. It also fits the vision of the Patron Saint of our Diocese, St. 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." This surely includes such eligible confirmed youth.

Submitted by Joe Lenhard, member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, NMB.

NOMINEES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

Report Prepared for the 233rd Diocesan Convention
As of October 2, 2023



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. Katie Presley
The Rev. Joseph Smith

Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):

Susan Grimes
Mildred Keith

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 TEC; 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. Bill Coyne
The Rev. Dr. Wilmot Merchant II

Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):

Barney Forsythe
Vermelle Simmons
Rick Stall

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.

Lay Nominees (1 Lay Seat):

Kirk Battle
Jean McDowell Martin
Jan Schumann

Additional nominations may be presented to the Nominations Committee on or before November 2, 2023, the first business day of Diocesan Convention.

Additional nominations must include 150 copies of each nominee's photo, nominator statement, and personal statement.

Diocesan Council *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Katie Presley

Church: All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head

Nominated by: Nancy Tillinghast



Nominator statement: Katie works well on a team and brings enthusiasm and creativity to her work with the lay and clerical leadership team at All Saints. She is highly organized and detail-oriented. As a vestry liaison for Adult Christian formation in our parish, I have been impressed with the ideas and experience Katie brings to the table from her work with All Saints Atlanta and Grace Midtown(GA) in particular. Katie is passionate about diversity and inclusion in faith communities, is an excellent listener, is excited about spirituality and always seeking creative ways to bring people of all ages closer to God. Finally, Katie is passionate about the future of the Church and empowering new leaders.

Personal Statement: It is with great joy that I accept the nomination to serve on Diocesan Council. As a newly ordained priest and a priest new to the Diocese of South Carolina, I come with energy and passion to serve this diocese as we joyfully tend to our present state while we also look ahead with hope and excitement for what is to come. Prior to accepting the call to serve at All Saints, Hilton Head, I served in the Diocese of Atlanta where I was ordained to the priesthood. I come with a breadth of leadership experience thanks to my almost 14 years in the military—12 years enlisted in the Air Force and 2 years as a Chaplain in the Army Reserves. I am passionate about the future of the church and believe that we are being called more and more to serve our communities, to share God's inclusive love, and to continually evolve as the world around us changes. I'm excited for the opportunity to use my gifts, skills, and experience to serve this diocese as we testify to the goodness of God in our midst. May we be a beacon of light for the world!

Diocesan Council

Clergy

Name: The Rev. Joseph K. Smith

Church: The Episcopal Church on Edisto, Edisto Island

Nominated by: Patricia Neumann



Nominator statement: The Reverend Joseph K. Smith began his ministry with The Episcopal Church on Edisto on August 15, 2023. As chair of our church’s Rector Search Committee, I have known him since March. From our Committee’s first conversation with Fr. Joseph, we knew that the Holy Spirit had guided him to Edisto and that he would be a perfect match for our congregation. Fr. Joseph understands our long passage – from starting with nothing in a position of exile to now contemplating the purchase of land on which to build a church. Similarly, he understands the parallel process that the diocese has undergone over the past several years. He will be able to contribute to the work of the Diocesan Council on Day One. Father Joseph has an objective way of evaluating ideas and a thoughtful approach to decision-making – with the ability to understand all sides and pathways. Just as he is perfectly suited to guide us through the next steps in our local journey on Edisto, he is ready to contribute his insight to our diocese. He will bring a steady hand and a vision of the future to the work of the Diocesan Council. I am honored to present his nomination to Convention.

Personal statement: As one of the newest members of the Diocese of South Carolina, it is my privilege to stand for election for Diocesan Council. Having been born and raised up and sent out from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, I am so happy to be home after a nine-year stint in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. What I am most excited about is doing the work that I was ordained to do. And to be sure, part of that work is to "take my share in the councils of the Church" (BCP 531). I am humbled and ecstatic to be serving at the Episcopal Church on Edisto in the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina where we are in the exciting part of building up the Church. We have the long tradition of the Episcopal Church to lean on, and yet, in this phase of our life as Church and diocese, we are compelled to dream beyond the same old thing that we have already done. And, if I haven’t said it already, I’m excited to be here and ready to serve.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Susan Grimes

Church: St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Roy Tripp



Nominator statement: Susan Grimes, a member of St. Mark's, Port Royal, has over 40 years involvement in the Episcopal Church. Presently she serves on our Vestry. Her skills in team building and leadership have helped our church face the challenges of COVID, and the return to full operational status. Susan's ability to think creatively provides a fresh perspective, leading to solving challenges with an innovative approach. I believe she will bring a passion for growing the diocese.

Personal Statement: The Episcopal Church has been my spiritual home for the past 40 years. I have been on several vestries and currently serve as liaison for Parish Life and as a co-director for our newly established women's group.

I worked as a design assistant in Manhattan renovating brownstones and as a real estate agent in Connecticut. As a retired teacher from Georgia, my goal is to continue learning and serving our Church. With God's help we will bring the Gospel's message to those longing for peace and love. My passion is to develop and help enable this worthwhile endeavor.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Mildred Keith

Church: Epiphany, Summerville

Nominated by: The Rev. Lenwood Williams



Nominator Statement: I have been serving as the interim priest at the Church of the Epiphany, Summerville for the past two and a half years. During this time, I have come to know Mrs. Mildred Keith quite well and am pleased to recommend her for a seat on the Diocesan Council.

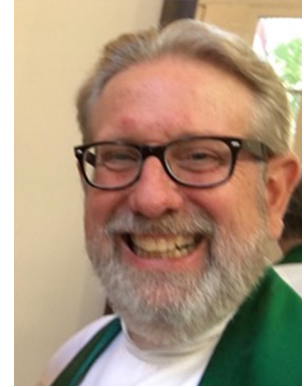
Personal Statement: I am married to Dr. Edward Keith, Jr. We have one child and two grandchildren. I have been an Episcopalian since 1985. I have been a member of New St. Andrews Church where I served on the vestry and was trained by Diocesan personnel to conduct internal audits at the church. I am currently a member of church of the Epiphany where I am on the vestry and Vice President of the ECW. I recently served as a member of the Strategic Visioning Team and very involved in the mission of our faith and growth of our church. I am also involved in community projects with the Silhouettes of Kappa Alpha Psi where we contribute annually to St, Jude and My Sister's House and make monthly contributions to Blessing Boxes in the area.

Standing Committee *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Bill Coyne

Church: St. Stephen's, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker



Nominator statement: I am happy to nominate the Rev. Bill Coyne for a clergy spot on the Standing Committee because of his many decades of ministerial experience both in the parish and as a member of diocesan staff in two different dioceses. His unique perspective and love for the work of the church would make him an outstanding addition to the Standing Committee as we continue to build up our diocese. He is warm, thoughtful, and insightful and I know would bring a great deal to the body.

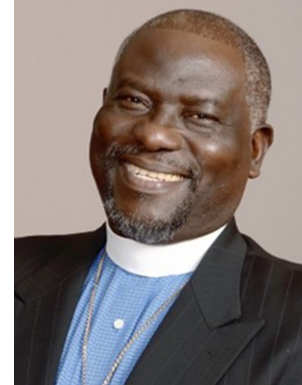
Personal Statement: I have been active in two dioceses (WMA & SC) since ordination in 1978. I have served as a deputy eight times to General Convention (1988, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2022). I served as archdeacon and congregational development officer in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts from 1998 to 2013. In the Diocese of South Carolina I have served at: St. Stephen's, Charleston; East Cooper Episcopal Church; diocesan Missioner for Returning Congregations & as the interim priest-in-charge at the Episcopal Church on Edisto. I also served on the Standing Committee in WMA and look forward to serving here if elected.

Standing Committee *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Cn. Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II

Church: St. Stephen's, North Myrtle Beach

Nominated by: Ron Hall



Nominator statement: Canon Merchant has been a priest in this diocese since 1999 and has been the rector of St. Stephen's (NMB) since 2002. Prior to that, he served in various ministries in St. Stephen's Parish from October 1999 until 2001. He has served as volunteer Public Safety Chaplain for the City of North Myrtle Beach, & Hospital Chaplain for Loris Hospital, now McLeod Seacoast. He served as chairperson of the Faith Leaders Advisory Council for South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. In 2009, he was honored as the "Volunteer of the Year" of the Victim Assistant Network of SC. Canon Merchant served as president of the Standing Committee of the Diocese from 2013 to 2015. In 2022, Canon Merchant was elected Clergy Representative of Province IV to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church ("TEC"). In 2023, the Bishop of Liberia appointed Canon Merchant as liaison of The Episcopal Church of Liberia to The Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

Personal Statement: Originally from Liberia, West Africa, I have served churches in Liberia and the United States since my ordination in 1986. Beginning October 1999 until August 2002, I served St. Stephen's in North Myrtle Beach SC in various capacities, including Christian Education Director, assistant priest, and interim priest-in-charge. In August 2002, I was installed as their third rector.

From 2004 to 2008 I served as the National Chairman of the Liberian Episcopal Community in the United States. From 2004 to 2015 I served on the National Board of the Union of Black Episcopalians. I am an active member of the Diocese of South Carolina and served as president of the Standing Committee from 2013 -2015. In June 2014, I was appointed priest-in-charge of Calvary Episcopal Church in Charleston. I simultaneously served the congregations of St. Stephen's and Calvary as an experiment of the changing times of the "Church" until December 2014. I have also served as a coach for the Black Ministries Office of the Episcopal Church and am a Senior Fellow of the Waccamaw Chapter of the American Leadership Forum.

From 2015 to the present, I have been elected deputy or associate deputy to General Convention. In 2015, I was made a Canon of The Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast in Ghana. In 2022, I was elected Clergy Representative of Province IV to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. In 2023, the Bishop of The Episcopal Church of Liberia appointed me as Liaison to The Episcopal Church. In 2023, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley appointed me as Dean of the Pee Dee-Waccamaw Deanery.

I will be delighted to be given the opportunity to serve as a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: George B. (Barney) Forsythe

Church: St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Roy Tripp



Nominator statement: Barney Forsythe is a life-long Episcopalian with a deep love for the church, its heritage and traditions. As the Rector at St. Mark's, I have had the good fortune to have Barney serve with me as Senior Warden for two consecutive terms. He would bring to the Standing Committee years of experience and leadership from both military and civilian life. His understanding of group dynamics contributes to building consensus while honoring a wide range of views. He would be a wonderful addition to the Standing Committee as we move into the future.

Personal statement: I am a lifelong Episcopalian and member of St Mark's Episcopal Church in Port Royal, where I serve as a lay reader and member of the choir. I chaired the search committee that called the Rev Roy Tripp to St Mark's and served for six years as senior warden of the vestry. I recently served on the Diocesan Visioning Committee, co-chairing the "How" subcommittee. During my time on the vestry, St Mark's purchased the Union Church in Port Royal, conducted its first capital campaign, remodeled the church, updated its governance documents, and established an endowment.

I served thirty-five years in the Army, retiring in 2005 as Professor of Psychology and Leadership and Vice Dean for Education at West Point (and Brigadier General). I went on to serve as Dean of Faculty and then as President of Westminster College in Missouri until 2015. Since then, I have done corporate leadership training for Thayer Leadership based out of West Point.

Having served on the Visioning Committee, I am excited to help Bishop Ruth and the people of the diocese realize the bold vision and strategic plan that will be put forth during the convention. With my background in education and leader development, I am particularly committed to diocesan initiatives that foster Christian formation for all ages and that support the development of lay leaders who are equipped to partner with the clergy in mutual ministry.

Standing Committee *Lay*

Name: Vermelle Simmons

Church: Calvary, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Ricardo Bailey



Nominator Statement: I feel that Mrs. Vermelle Simmons should be nominated to the Standing Committee of our diocese because she is a woman who truly is dedicated to her parish and overall to the ministry, efficacy and witness of The Episcopal Church. Vermelle is a loyal Episcopalian who stands with and is unapologetically enthusiastic about the potential of what our church can and should be for the world that we live in. Vermelle has served on the Diocesan Council under two previous bishops. She also served as co-chair of the Search Committee that called me to be rector of Calvary Episcopal Church. She also currently serves as a member of Calvary's vestry and most recently, Vermelle is serving on the Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese of South Carolina.

Vermelle has excellent listening skills and she has a sharp demeanor to be in a position to dialogue with others. I have seen her listen and pastorally lead others to understand different ways of thinking while keeping people in the space of knowing and feeling that they are part of the conversation at hand. She is a very generous, hard-working and a welcoming soul.

Personal Statement: God has continually focused my attention on being a good servant. I have served the children and parents of Charleston for over 38 years in education. Along with educating counties, cities, communities, school districts, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, media, and businesses throughout of South Carolina on having a "voice." Through His grace, I've taken that same servant attitude to serve my church (Calvary) and the diocese in various roles of accountability, discernment, and dialogue over the years. At this point, I feel called to do more and I believe "the more" is to serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee. I will be an asset in encouraging everyone to follow the vision, and canons, of the diocese. With the current work I'm doing on the Diocesan Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission, it's important to continue to have a "seat" at the table which allows for diversity and inclusion.

Our diocese has committed itself to doing the work of reconciliation and justice. I feel I can help bring a perspective for those of color and those who have been overlooked for years to the forefront of what so many of us must consider when it comes to diocesan identity. This will assist our bishop in her role as teacher, shepherd and witness bearer for all Episcopalians. In so doing, we will never forget the past, but draw closer in sharing the love of God.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Richard (Rick) Stall

Church: Messiah, Myrtle Beach

Nominated by: Patricia Neumann



Nominator statement: Rick Stall is dedicated to the mission of The Episcopal Church, both locally and in the diocese. He is well qualified for the defined as well as the anticipated work of The Standing Committee. Rick was a member of the Standing Committee, 2018-2020, when this body was performing its primary role of acting as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a Bishop. His service encompassed the time of uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic when difficult decisions had to be made for the diocese and its individual churches. He has also been very active in the diocese in other ways – serving on the Diocesan Missions Committee, the Diocesan Convention Committee for New Parishes and Missions, and most recently with me as co-chair of the Bishop Transition Committee. Rick has been the senior warden of The Episcopal Church of The Messiah since its formation in 2013, helping to establish, guide and grow this community of worship in Myrtle Beach. He is mindful of the past with his eyes always on the future. I am honored and pleased to nominate Rick Stall for a lay position on the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.

Personal Statement: As a lifelong Christian and an active adult communicant of five Episcopal churches in two dioceses, I have felt God's hand and guidance in numerous challenges and changes throughout my life. As senior warden of one of the churches that lost property in the bizarre ebbs and flows of our state Supreme Court's decision-making process, I have experienced the remarkable determination and resourcefulness of a pioneering community of faith. As one of the people who worked to form the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, Myrtle Beach in 2013, I have lived the wilderness experience fully. As an Episcopalian at this time in this diocese, I am compelled to offer all of that background and experience to perpetuating the rebuilding of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina as we progress beyond, and heal from, a rending schism.

Our diocese is historic, but cannot rest on our past. Our current situation is challenging and calls for creative adaptation and resourcefulness—that is now our exciting opportunity.

I feel called to employ my recent years of leadership experience in a mission church and at the diocesan level to the work of building a thriving and dynamic missional diocese in the 21st century. With benefit of my broad and multi-layered experience, I feel especially called to advocate for the Tier Two (churches who lost properties) and Tier Three (historically marginalized) faith communities of our diocese. With your support, I am eager to serve if elected.

Trustee, University of the South *Lay*

Name: Kirk Battle

Church: Holy Cross Faith Memorial, Pawleys Island

Nominated by: The Rev. Wil Keith



Nominator Statement: Kirk Battle has been a faithful member of Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal church for years. He belongs to a wonderful growing family that allows him to employ my own daughters as a frequent babysitters. Kirk maintains a strong and enduring connection with his alma mater, The University of the South and has expressed interest in the role of Trustee to the University frequently over the last decade. He has a fascinating personality that includes a delightful writing style that is appreciated by many through the many of his pieces that have been published. He will certainly represent our diocese well in this role and he will bring much enthusiasm as I expect his work may appropriately entail bring the family along and perhaps adding another generation of “Sewanee Battles.”

Personal Statement: I am a member of Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church in Pawleys Island and a 2005 graduate of Sewanee. The Episcopal Church has always been a part of my life both growing up in Conway, SC, and in high school when I attended St. Andrew’s in Middletown, DE.

I am a practicing lawyer in South Carolina who chiefly works with government entities handling personal injury, property, and licensing disputes. I have represented the local college, Coastal Carolina University, in a variety of lawsuits brought by students, parents, and guests to the campus. My wife, Lindsey, is a pharmacist at Georgetown Memorial Hospital. We live in Pawleys Island with our one-year old son, Walt.

In my spare time I write fiction and my latest book is an epic historical fiction saga about the founding of Sewanee called *These Hallowed Halls*. The book was a massive project which took eight years of research and revision to complete. While the text is certainly a celebration of the University, it does not shy away from discussing the racial prejudice of Reconstruction South.

Sewanee has been a part of my life since I arrived there. I am still in regular contact with my friends from the school, many of whom have served the University as trustees, professors, or fundraisers. I have a wealth of experience to call on through this network and a deep motivation to support the place we all love. I would be honored to continue to serve as a trustee and help the University share that experience with others.

Trustee, University of the South

Lay

Name: Jean McDowell Martin

Church: Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Charles E. Jenkins



Nominator Statement: Jean McDowell Martin graduated from the University of the South in 2005. She comes from a long line of family members who have also attended Sewanee. Jean and her family are active members of Grace Church Cathedral. I believe Jean's love for the church and love for Sewanee would make her an ideal candidate to serve as lay trustee.

Personal Statement: As an alumna of The University of the South (Class of '05) and a lifelong Episcopalian, the nomination for Lay Trustee is truly an honor. I am an active member of Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston, SC, and I am grateful for the strong relationship our congregation has with Sewanee. I have served on the vestry, been a lay reader, led a young adult group, and enjoyed attending services and parish events at Grace throughout my life.

The opportunity to serve both Grace Church and The University of the South in another capacity is one I would be grateful for and eager to do. Both institutions have played a significant role in shaping who I am as both a Christian and a person. I have deep respect and gratitude for Sewanee – the incredible education I received, the lifelong friendships we made, the encouragement from professors to think critically, and the true sense of home and family I still feel every time I visit or think about the Mountain. It is a sacred place in my heart, and I would be honored to serve as a lay trustee.

Trustee, University of the South *Clergy*

Name: Jan Schumann

Church: Holy Communion, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Cn. Ryan Currie



Nominator Statement: Jan Schumann is a loyal alumna of the University of the South and faithful member of Holy Communion in Charleston. A member of the University Choir during her undergraduate days, Jan understands the close ties between Sewanee and the church. While respecting its traditions, Jan has spoken about the need for Sewanee to thrive in the twenty-first century as an excellent, inclusive school in the liberal arts tradition. I believe Jan's perspective could be valuable on the Board of Trustees.

Personal Statement: After withdrawing my name from nomination last year, I am in a much better place this year and ready to be considered for the position on the Sewanee Board of Trustees representing the Diocese of South Carolina. I graduated with a BS in mathematics in 1985. I have continued to support Sewanee financially since I graduated and am committed to the university being a living, growing institution for many years to come. I love the traditions of Sewanee but know that the institution must grow and change to remain a vital and consequential university. Sewanee has made a positive impact on my life and inspires me to seek a way to give back to the university in a meaningful way.

Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina 2024 Proposed Budget

Receipts	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024	Comments/Notes
Parishes and Missions	\$650,000.00	\$690,000.00	5% increase
Individuals & Institutions	\$25,000.00	\$26,250.00	
Interest Income	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
TEC Grant for Voorhees	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	
Trust Fund Disbursements	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	
Other Income	\$359,800.94	\$558,069.07	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,456,300.94	\$1,695,819.07	
Expenses			
Bishop			
Bishop Salary and Housing Allowance	\$164,800.00	\$173,040.00	5% increase
SECA For Bishop	\$12,607.20	\$13,237.56	
Bishop Pension	\$32,400.00	\$33,529.96	
Bishop Health and Life	\$23,992.20	\$24,276.00	
Bishop Cell Phone	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Bishop Mileage (Diocesan)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Bishop Office	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Bishop Travel (Outside of Diocese)	\$6,500.00	\$10,000.00	increased to better match actual
Conferences & Meetings Episcopate	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00	
College for Bishops	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
Meals/Entertainment Expense	\$2,000.00	\$7,500.00	increased to better match actual
Total Bishop	\$258,399.40	\$277,683.52	
Bishop's Staff			
Salaries	\$503,412.50	\$623,583.13	4 ft/ 3 pt to 5 ft/ 4 pt positions
SECA and Social Security	\$43,014.69	\$51,133.82	
Pension	\$69,923.14	\$84,226.61	
Health and Life Insurance	\$64,497.60	\$61,932.00	
Cell Phones	\$5,940.00	\$6,660.00	
Mileage	\$13,800.00	\$16,100.00	
Conference, Training, and Continuing Education	\$15,250.00	\$19,750.00	Additional \$500 added from version 1
Total Staff	\$715,837.93	\$863,385.55	
Administrative			
Annual Audit	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	
ACS Database Software	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	
Bookkeeper	\$6,000.00	\$15,000.00	increase to match hours needed
Bank Service & Vanco Charges	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Chancellor Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Church Insurance & Surety Bond	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	
Software & Internet Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Computer equipment	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
Meetings & Meals	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Payroll Processing Fee & Other Services	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	
Postage & P.O. Box Annual Fee	\$650.00	\$650.00	
Office Resources	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Rent Expense - Grace	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Rent Expense - Calvary	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	
Safeguarding God's Children	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Telecommunications	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
TENS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Workers Compensation	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	

Misc Diocesan Gifts & Memorials	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Total Administrative	\$101,450.00	\$110,450.00	
Diocesan Programs & Support			
Annual Diocesan Convention	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Background Checks	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Commission on Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Clergy Conference	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
College/Young Adult Ministry Program	\$10,000.00	\$42,000.00	<i>expanded ministry for 2024</i>
Communications	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	<i>moved to operating from other</i>
Deanery Meetings	\$750.00	\$750.00	
Diocesan Publication	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
EFM	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	
Renewal of Vows	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Retired Clergy Gathering	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Voorhees University	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
Youth Programming	\$15,000.00	\$12,000.00	<i>no EYE this year; increased support for diocesan programs</i>
Racial Reconciliation & Social Justice	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	<i>expanded ministry for 2024</i>
Porter Gaud Support	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Total Diocesan Programs & Support	\$47,550.00	\$124,050.00	
Diocesan Support			
Parish & Missions Support	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
Conference & Education Fees	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Mileage Reimbursement	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Total Diocesan Support	\$201,000.00	\$203,000.00	
Work Outside the Diocese			
Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Dominican Republic	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Ecumenical Ministry	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Lowcountry Community Chaplaincy	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Kanuga	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Sustainable Development Goals – ERD	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
Synod Meeting	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Province IV Assessment	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Seminarian Support	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
The Episcopal Church	\$91,202.00	\$90,000.00	<i>Assessment formula changed</i>
University of the South	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Total Work Outside the Diocese	\$118,452.00	\$117,250.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,456,300.94	\$1,695,819.07	
Other Expenses			
Bishop Discretionary	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Bishop Search	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Communications	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	
Lambeth Conference	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
Ministry Grants Committee	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
General Convention/Deputies	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
Recapitalizing the Diocese Toward Mission & Growth	\$2,738,200.00	\$2,022,950.00	
Tier 1		\$1,677,950.00	<i>meetings with congregations in Oct</i>
Tier 2		\$175,000.00	
Tier 3		\$170,000.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$2,861,700.00	\$2,116,450.00	



Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and/or Canons

The Diocese of South Carolina

The 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention

CONSTITUTION

Proposed Amendments

[The proposed amendments require a First Reading majority vote at the 2023 Convention, and Second Reading vote by two-thirds of each Order at the 2024 Convention]

Article VI is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE VI

Procedures Pertaining to Convention

Section 1. 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 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 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 is hereby amended as follows:

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.

CANONS

Title I Organization and Administration of the Diocese

CANON 3 Organization of Parishes

Section 3. The corporate charter for every parish must contain the provision that the corporation is formed for the purpose of operating a parish ~~or mission~~-organized pursuant and subject to the Canons of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina now in force or as hereafter amended. The corporate charter must also provide that if the corporation is dissolved that the real and personal property of the parish ~~or mission~~-shall become the property of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

Section 4. All parishes that hold any real property with reverter clauses to the grantor or other persons in the real property title shall make every effort to remove the possibility of such future reversion. No parish shall acquire real property that contains a reversion clause in the title to the property. Notwithstanding this restriction, if either the Diocese, the Trustees of the Diocese, or an entity controlled by either of them shall convey real property to a parish ~~or mission~~ then the deed of conveyance shall contain a reverter clause, which shall provide substantially as follows: Provided, however, that if at any time the parish/~~mission~~ shall dissolve, liquidate, close, become or be declared dormant, attempt to disassociate or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from this Episcopal Diocese and The Episcopal Church, or otherwise cease to be a functioning Episcopal organization, then and in that event, title to this real property shall immediately and automatically revert to The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, or in default thereof, to The Episcopal Church.

CANON 4 Parishes and Missions in Union With Convention

Section 2. At ~~the~~ **its** annual meeting, ~~of~~ the parish or mission **shall elect delegates to the Convention as provided by Article VI of the Diocesan Constitution. In doing so,** any member **of the parish or mission** may nominate as delegates ~~to the next~~

~~annual Convention of the diocese~~ “the senior warden **or his/her successor**” and/or “the junior warden, ~~separately by title with the words appended to the nomination,~~ or his/her successor.” That title shall appear on the ballot as a nominee and the nomination shall be treated as the nomination of a communicant. If nominated, he/she or they shall be voted on and elected by the members of the meeting as though ~~they~~ **he/she** were **a** named communicant.~~s~~ ~~In complying with the section,~~ **If so elected,** the name **of the person then serving as warden and not the title of any person so elected** shall be reported as a delegate to the diocesan Convention. **In the event that person is unable to serve as delegate, his/her successor as warden shall serve in his/her stead.** In no case shall either the senior or junior warden of the parish be designated as a delegate unless he or she has been nominated and elected at the annual meeting of the parish in the manner prescribed herein.

CANON 5

Dormant Parishes and Missions

Section 2. If any parish or mission shall have failed for three successive years to elect a vestry (if a parish), or to send a delegate to the Convention (if in union with the Convention), or to make the reports required by Title 1, Canon 6, Section I of the General Convention, or to make a financial contribution to the program of the Diocese, such parish or mission shall be ~~considered~~ dormant, and may be dissolved by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. If any parish or mission shall begin or attempt to disassociate or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from this Episcopal Diocese and The Episcopal Church, or otherwise cease to be a functioning Episcopal organization, such parish or mission shall be ~~considered~~ dormant and may be dissolved by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. **When a parish or mission becomes dormant, the Bishop shall issue a Declaration of Dormancy to confirm this fact formally, at which time the Standing Committee shall be deemed to be the vestry or council for the dormant parish or mission, with the authority to execute deeds and all other documents necessary to convey title to the Trustees, of the dormant parish’s or mission’s property.**

Section 4. **When a parish’s or mission’s assets revert to the Diocese upon the parish’s or mission’s dormancy, as provided elsewhere in these Canons, it shall be the duty of the ecclesiastical authority to ~~adopt measure necessary to preserve~~ **determine whether it is in the best interests of the Diocese to preserve or to liquidate** the former property of such parishes or missions. ~~as may be dormant or virtually extinct.~~ If a dormant parish is not dissolved, pursuant to Section 2 of this Article, the ecclesiastical authority may appoint a priest-in-charge for such parish if it be without a priest, which priest may be withdrawn at any time.**

CANON 6

Annual Parish or Mission Meetings

Section 1. Not less than **thirty (30)** days prior to the convening of the next annual Convention each parish or mission shall hold an annual meeting for the purpose of electing wardens, members of the vestry, and lay delegates to the Convention, as provided by the Constitution, and of transacting such other business as may be brought before it. Notice of such annual meeting shall be given by the rector or vicar, or, if there be no rector or vicar, by the vestry with not less than one week's notice. Provided, however, that if the constitution or bylaws of the parish or mission so provide, the wardens may be elected by the parish vestry or mission council, **as long as the wardens are so elected at least thirty (30) days prior to converting of the next annual Convention.**

Section 5. **At the annual meeting, the** vestry or mission council shall ~~make to this meeting provide~~ an annual report of their official acts during the year.

CANON 7

Parish Vestries and Mission Councils

Section 2. The election shall be ~~by ballot, and the vote necessary for election shall be a majority of the votes cast~~ in accordance with the parish's or mission's bylaws.

DELETE EXISTING SECTION 4

~~Section 4.— The vestry or council shall have charge of the temporalities of the parish or mission, which shall include the following:~~

~~Section 4.1.— They shall provide for all repairs to parish or mission owned properties and insurance thereof.~~

~~Section 4.2.— They shall pay salaries from church funds to all employees who have, prior to appointment, been authorized by the vestry or council. No one shall be employed without the consent and financial support of the vestry or council. The rector or vicar shall have the right to employ, supervise and terminate all employees of the parish or mission, whose duties are concerned with the spiritual mission of the parish or mission or whose duties, while not primarily of a spiritual or sacerdotal nature, such bear on the ability of the rector to perform his or her duties. The hiring and supervision of those employees shall be the rector's or vicar's responsibility.~~

~~Section 4.3.— They shall pay approved current expenses or which they shall deem necessary to be paid.~~

~~Section 4.4. They shall take all necessary steps to raise funds annually or periodically for the support of the church and its programs.~~

~~Section 4.5. They shall keep a proper account of all monies received by the parish or mission and expended by it and make an annual report of the financial condition of the church at each annual congregational meeting.~~

~~Section 4.6 They shall employ, supervise, and have the right to terminate those employees who are employed to give advice to the vestry on matters of finance and long term planning for the use of the parish or mission property, and investment of parish or mission monies.~~

~~Section 4.7 They shall execute all duties, which are now or may hereafter be imposed upon by them by any Convention of the Diocese.~~

REPLACE SECTION 4 WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Section 4. With regard to decision-making authority, the Vestry or Council shall have charge of all matters temporal or secular of the parish or mission, and the Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge shall have charge over all spiritual and liturgical matters of the parish or mission. The Vestry or Council shall safeguard the financial integrity of the parish or mission, provide for the prompt payment of all liabilities incurred by the parish or mission, and assist the clergy in carrying out the work of the Church in the parish or mission, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

Section 4.1. Provide for all repairs to parish or mission owned properties and insurance thereof.

Section 4.2. Pay salaries from parish or mission funds to all employees of the parish or mission. The Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge shall have the right and authority to employ, supervise, and terminate all staff employees of the parish or mission. The staff is under the supervision of and accountable to the Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge. The Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge is accountable to the Wardens and Vestry or Council for the performance of the staff. It is the responsibility of the Vestry or Council to see that the parish or mission is adequately staffed and funded. The Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge may seek the advice of the Wardens and Vestry or Council on job descriptions and evaluations.

Section 4.3. The Vestry or Council shall pay approved current expenses that they shall deem necessary to be paid. The Vestry or Council shall pay for administrative services and office support.

Section 4.4. The Vestry or Council shall take all necessary steps to raise funds annually or periodically for the support of the church and its programs.

Section 4.5. The Vestry or Council shall keep a proper account of all monies received by the parish or mission and expended by it and make an annual report of the financial condition of the church at each annual congregational meeting.

Section 4.6. The Vestry or Council shall execute all duties, which are now or may hereafter be imposed upon them by any Convention of the diocese.

Section 5. It shall be the ~~espeeial~~ duty of the Wardens, **with the support of the Vestry**, to provide whatever may be necessary for the due celebration of divine worship (as books, vestments, etc.); also for the decency and comfort of the church building and furniture, books for church records, and the elements of the Lord's Supper, and to put down all disorder during public worship. They shall be ready to collect "the alms and other devotions of the people," and in case the parish or mission is without a priest shall disburse them: and also provide for public worship by occasional clerical services, or by lay reading, as circumstances will permit. They shall also, during such vacancy, take charge of the church plate, records, etc., and shall present to the Bishop, at each annual Convention, a report of the parish or mission. It shall be their further duty to aid the rector or priest in all agencies and efforts for the advancement of the church as Sunday Schools, etc. and they may report to the Bishop any irregularities in the mode of conducting public worship, and all offenses by their priests, or by any other officiating for the priest, against rubrics or canon faith or morals.

CANON 8 Calling and Organization of Conventions

Section 3. Resolutions for consideration at a Conventions shall be submitted in accordance with the following procedures:

Section 3.1. **Proposed resolutions** may be presented prior to an upcoming Convention in accordance with this procedure. No **proposed** resolution shall be submitted to the secretary of the Convention unless one or more of the authors of the **proposed** resolution have presented it in person or in writing to each deanery convocation (clergy and lay gathering) of the Diocese. The **proposed** resolution shall then be submitted to the secretary of the Convention not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention.

Section 3.2. **Proposed resolutions** presented ~~either~~ after the time specified in Section 3.1 above ~~or at the Convention~~ shall be presented in accordance with this procedure. Any **late proposed** resolution submitted after the time of ~~deanery convocation~~ **pre-convention meeting** presentations will not be received by the Convention secretary unless such **proposed** resolution or resolutions are submitted in typewritten form with sufficient copies to provide one (1) copy to each of the officers of the Convention, one (1) copy to every clerical delegate seated in the Convention, and one (1) copy for each delegation of lay delegates from every parish and mission seated in the Convention.

Section 3.3. Any **proposed** resolution not submitted in accordance with this section shall not be considered by the Convention unless permission of the Convention is granted by a majority vote of the Convention.

CANON 12 Trustees of the Diocese

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Trustees duly elected by the Convention of the Diocese comprising six members, three shall be clergy who are canonically resident in the diocese and three laypersons who are all communicants in good standing of a parish or mission of the Diocese. ~~In addition to~~ **The Bishop** ~~who~~ shall serve as an ex officio ~~and~~ member with a vote and as President of the Trustees. ~~and~~ The Chancellor of the Diocese ~~who~~ shall serve ex officio ~~but~~ without a vote.

Section 4. The Trustees shall be responsible for the management of all the assets of the Diocese that are entrusted to its care and ownership.

The Trustees shall hold the legal title to all of the real property of the diocese, and all real property acquired hereafter by the Diocese shall be conveyed to the Trustees at the time of its acquisition. Provided, however, that title to real property obtained by the Diocese in the settlement of litigation that the Diocese ultimately plans to distribute to a parish or mission may be retained by the Diocese until it is to be distributed out to a parish or mission. The Trustees shall be responsible for the management of all property of the Diocese including investment accounts, trusts, and other assets that are bequeathed to it or otherwise by the Trustees.

The Trustees shall, in accordance with all generally accepted investment standards, manage all the funds entrusted to it in accordance with any and all ~~particular restrictions required by any and all~~ restrictions and other terms and conditions impressed on such funds.

RULES OF ORDER

Rule 1. After the Convention has been declared organized, and the Committee on Credentials appointed, the order of proceedings shall be:

(5) The appointment by the presiding officer of the following continuing committees, whose members shall continue in office until their successors be duly appointed:

- (a) A Committee on Admission of New Parishes and Missions to consist of the Chancellor or the Assistant Chancellor, two priests, and two laypersons.
- (b) A Committee on the Constitution and Canons to consist of three ~~priests~~ clergy and two laypersons.
- (c) A Committee on Finance for the Convention to consist of the Treasurer of the Diocese, if the Treasurer is an elected member of the Convention, and if the Treasurer is not an elected member of the Convention, an ex-officio member; two laypersons; and two priests.

Respectfully submitted by:

Melinda L. Kelley, Vice Chancellor and Chair
Constitution and Canons Committee

The Rev. Canon Phil Linder, Canon to the Ordinary
The Very Rev. Michael Shaffer
The Rev. Canon Rob Donehue
Michael L.M. Jordan, Esq.
Bert G. Utsey, Chancellor (*ex-officio*)

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Revision to the Name of the Diocese Received First Reading Approval by Diocesan Convention November 18, 2022. Upon Receiving Second Reading Vote by Convention in 2023, the name of the Diocese will be The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

CONSTITUTION

All Proposed Revisions to the Constitution Received First Reading Approval by Diocesan Convention November 18, 2022, and will be Presented to Convention in 2023 for Second Reading Vote.

ARTICLE I

Recognition of the Authority of The Episcopal Church

The Episcopal ~~Diocese of South Carolina Church in South Carolina~~ accedes to and adopts the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, ~~as they now exist or may hereafter be amended by The Episcopal Church's General Convention, acknowledges its authority accordingly,~~ and agrees to be permanently and irrevocably governed thereby.

ARTICLE II

Name **and Seal** of Diocese

Section 1. The Diocese shall be known by the name: **The Episcopal Church in Diocese of South Carolina.** The Diocese has also been known as and done business as "The Episcopal Church in South Carolina." "The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina," "The Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina", and "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina."

The Diocese, which was first organized in 1785, is the historic and continuously existing Episcopal Diocese in South Carolina and was originally known as "The Protestant Episcopal Church for the Diocese of South Carolina."

Section 2. The Seal of the Diocese shall be:



ARTICLE III

Jurisdiction

The geographic territory of the Diocese is comprised of the following counties in the State of South Carolina: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

ARTICLE IV

Diocesan Convention Meetings

Section 1. A diocesan Convention shall be held annually, at such time and place as shall have been determined upon by the preceding Convention.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall have power to call a special meeting of the Convention by giving at least thirty (30) days' notice to every bishop, priest, and deacon entitled to a seat in the Convention, and to every parish and mission in the Diocese in union with the Convention. Such meeting shall be held when and where the authority so calling it shall determine. At such meeting no other business shall be transacted than that specified in the notice so calling said meeting. Whenever a special meeting of Convention is called for the purpose of electing a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, lay delegates from the several parishes and organized missions in union with Convention shall be elected after the call has been issued for such special meeting.

Section 3. If, in the judgment of the Ecclesiastical Authority, there exists sufficient cause to require a change of time or place for the meeting of a Convention either annual or special, the ecclesiastical authority may designate another time or place of holding such meeting. Any such meeting shall be held within 30 days after the time originally designated and after notice to every bishop, priest, and deacon, and parish and mission in the Diocese entitled to seat in the Convention.

ARTICLE V

Diocesan Convention Members

Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of laypersons, bishops, priests, and deacons, as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Each parish and mission in union with the Convention and in good standing shall be entitled to all of the privileges as members of the Convention.

Section 3. Each canonically resident bishop in the Diocese shall be entitled to all of the privileges of a member of the Convention.

Section 4. ~~Each~~ **All** canonically resident **clergy (priests and deacons)** ~~priest, currently serving a church, an institution of the Diocese, or on diocesan staff, is~~ **are** entitled to all

privileges as a member of the Convention, **including seat, voice, and vote**. ~~Each canonically resident retired priest who served a church, an institution of the Diocese, or on diocesan staff for at least five years immediately prior to retirement shall also be entitled to all privileges as a member of the Convention. Retired clergy who are canonically resident but ineligible for vote are entitled to seat and voice.~~

~~*Section 5.*— Each canonically resident deacon of the Diocese shall be entitled to seat and voice as a member of the Convention.~~

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 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 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 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 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 Orders 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 shall be necessary to determine a choice.

ARTICLE VII

Officers and Staff of the Diocese

Section 1. The constitutional officers of the Diocese shall be a Chancellor, ~~an Assistant Chancellor (if elected)~~, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Historiographer, **and, at the Bishop's discretion, a Vice Chancellor**, each of whom shall be a confirmed communicant of the Church, and a member of a parish or mission in union with the Convention, or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese.

Section 1.1. The Chancellor and a Vice Chancellor shall be nominated by the Bishop and shall be elected by a majority vote of the Convention. If a Vice Chancellor is to be nominated by the Bishop, the nomination must be approved by the Chancellor. The term of office of the Vice Chancellor, if so elected, shall run concurrently with the term of the Chancellor. They shall serve for three years and **shall continue** until their successors are elected. Their duties shall be to act as legal advisors of the ~~Ecclesiastical Authority~~ **Bishop, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Trustees, Diocesan Convention**, and other Diocesan offices and organizations, in matters affecting the interest of the Church. They shall be ex-officio members of the Convention without the right to vote, unless a delegate from a parish or mission in union with the Convention. **If the office of the Chancellor or Vice Chancellor becomes vacant during the term of office, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an Acting Chancellor or Acting Vice Chancellor to complete the remainder of the term of the vacant office.**

Section 1.2 The Secretary shall be nominated by the Bishop and confirmed at each annual Convention and shall continue in office until his/her successor is elected. The Secretary shall be responsible for the publication of the Journal of the Convention. The Secretary's duties shall be as prescribed by the Constitution, Canons, resolutions, and Rules of Order of both the Convention of this Diocese and of the General Convention. The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Convention without the right to vote, unless a delegate from a parish or mission in union with the Convention or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese. **If the office of Secretary becomes vacant during the term of office, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an Acting Secretary to complete the remainder of the term of the vacant office.**

Section 1.3. The Treasurer shall be elected at each annual Convention and shall continue in office until a successor is elected. The Treasurer's duties shall be as prescribed by the Constitution, Canons, resolutions, and Rules of Order of both the Convention of this Diocese and of the General Convention. The Treasurer shall be an ex officio member of the Convention without the right to vote, unless the Treasurer is a delegate from a parish or mission in union with the Convention or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese. **If the office of the Treasurer becomes vacant during the term of office, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an Acting Treasurer to complete the remainder of the term of the vacant office.**

Section 1.4. The Historiographer shall be nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by the Convention to serve for three years and until a successor is appointed. The duties of the Historiographer shall be prescribed by Canon.

Section 2. The Bishop may appoint such other officers and staff of the Diocese as the Bishop shall deem appropriate for the operation of the Diocese including, but not limited, to an Archdeacon, Canon to the Ordinary, and other diocesan officers and administrative staff as necessary for the work of the Diocese. They shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and have such duties as shall be as prescribed by the Bishop, the Constitution, Canons, resolutions, and Rules of Order of both the Convention of this Diocese and of the General Convention. In case there be no Bishop to act as the ecclesiastical authority, then the Standing Committee shall appoint the officers and staff to serve at its pleasure or until there be a Bishop, with ecclesiastical authority.

ARTICLE VIII

Admitting Parishes and Missions Into Union with the Convention

Section 1. Parishes and/or missions, which have been organized as provided by the canons of both The Episcopal Church in **Diocese of South Carolina** and The Episcopal Church for not less than one year, may apply for and be admitted into union with the Convention by vote of the Convention, provided that the requirements hereinafter set forth in the canons have been met.

Section 2. At the annual Convention next succeeding the receipt of application for admission to union with the Convention, the Secretary shall communicate the same to the Convention on the first day of its session. After reference to both the Committee on Admission of New Parishes and the Committee on Constitution and Canons, the application shall be acted upon by the Convention.

Section 3. A parish or mission shall be accorded full privileges of membership in the Convention when it is admitted into union with the Convention, including the right of a voice and vote in the proceedings.

ARTICLE IX

Standing Committee

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of six priests 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 and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. No priest 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.

Section 4. The Standing Committee shall report to each annual Convention its activities and actions of the previous year.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy caused by the death, resignation or other event, a replacement member shall be elected by a vote of the remaining members. The elected individual shall serve for the remainder of the term of the departed member.

ARTICLE X

Deputies to the General Convention

Section 1. At an Annual Convention during the triennium between General Conventions, but preceding each General Convention, priests, **deacons**, and laypersons, in the appropriate number and having qualifications established by The Episcopal Church, shall be chosen by ballot to represent the Diocese at the next succeeding General Convention. No more than the requisite number of other priests, **deacons**, and laypersons, having the same qualifications, shall be chosen by ballot, as alternates for those selected. Such representatives and alternates shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2. In case any deputy of those first chosen shall decline such election, or be unable to serve as a deputy to the General Convention, the deputy shall forthwith inform the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese. The ecclesiastical authority shall thereupon appoint to the General Convention an alternate deputy in the order of the number of votes received at their election to replace any deputy unable to attend the General Convention. In case all of the alternates so elected shall decline to serve, or be unable to attend, the ecclesiastical authority may appoint a substitute deputy of like qualifications.

ARTICLE XI

Discipline of a Bishop, Priest or Deacon

A bishop, priest, or deacon shall be subject to discipline for offenses enumerated in both the canons of The Episcopal ~~Church in~~ **Diocese of** South Carolina and The Episcopal Church and, if found guilty, shall be sentenced in accordance therewith. The action shall be conducted according to both the canons of The Episcopal ~~Church in~~ **Diocese of** South Carolina and The Episcopal Church.

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 Orders present at the next annual Convention.



Report of Institutions

The Diocese of South Carolina
The 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention



Report to the Diocese of South Carolina
- November 2023 -

The essence of Kanuga is found in its people, who keep the very heart of Kanuga alive and beating strongly. This year, Kanuga felt more alive than ever, with a full schedule of parish and diocesan retreats, events and conferences, camp experiences, outdoor experiential learning, and summer guest period, each brimming with the Kanuga spirit.

We have been pleased to welcome in 2023:

- 700+ campers
- 30 wedding groups
- 54 school groups to Mountain Trail Outdoor School
- 10 Kanuga-sponsored conferences
- 37 groups to Bob Campbell Youth Campus
- 200+ people for Music in the Pines performances
- 70+ youth program staff members

Kanuga's financial health continues to make gains, and we once again experienced historic fundraising results. We undertook a campus-wide property assessment of all guest quarters this year, to help guide us in the prioritization of capital projects. Throughout the year, our safety and security team worked with a professional consultant in reviewing and revising our emergency preparedness procedures.

A number of campus improvements have been made this year including the renovation of Colhoun into a new children's space, re-roofing the Main Lodge, adding speed bumps to the entrance road, repairs to Lakeside Chapel, updates to flooring, roofing, and furnishings in various cottages and guest houses, refinishing of the tennis courts (and addition of pickleball), replacement of Lakeview House decking, and construction of a new boardwalk at Lowry's Crossing as part of our wetlands conservation efforts. We were also pleased to complete restoration efforts on our outdoor labyrinth, adding a more accessible approach path as well as low-level lighting.

Foster Educational Garden welcomed a special Good News Gardens group from St. John in the Wilderness Flat Rock. Together, they nurtured and harvested organic spices, flowers, and vegetables, giving nearly 300 pounds of fresh produce to community members in need. We reestablished our honeybee colonies and added more native, edible plants such as blueberry bushes and elderberry trees. The garden is used as a teaching area for students enrolled in Mountain Trail Outdoor School.

We have embraced a "new way" of conferencing. Kanuga's mission is to serve as a gathering place for all people to connect with each other, nature, and the Creator. Our

conferences are now providing more opportunities for these connections to happen. Long days of sitting and taking notes have given over to inspiring presentations, creative expression, forest bathing, and time to simply “Be.” Our presenters have done an amazing job in leading us in the “new” way. We’ve been fortunate to welcome Cole Arthur Riley, David Whyte, Dr. Catherine Meeks, The Rev. Winnie Varghese, The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Pdraig Ó Tuama, Joy Harjo, The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, Ana Hernandez, Roger Hutchison, Dr. Westina Matthews, Robbin Brent, The Rev. Zack Nyein, The Rev. Ryan Hawthorne, and Diana McKendree, among others.

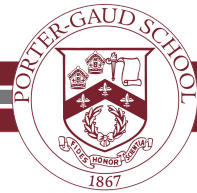
And, by the thousands, Kanuga’s prayer ribbon ministry in the Chapel of The Transfiguration has grown. The ribbons flutter above, filling the chapel with all the colors of God’s magnificent rainbow. This is our community. These are our prayers. This is Kanuga.

My gratitude knows no end.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'M'.

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.¹ 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.

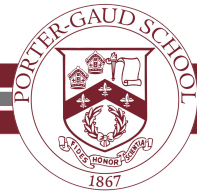
Office of the Chaplaincy

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

The Rev'd David Rowe - Lower School Chaplain

*In the search process for 2024-2025 Middle School Chaplain

¹ 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.²

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.

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

APPENDIX A

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.

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 more than two-dozen dioceses form the core of the University's Board of Trustees. These connections foster 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

2023-2024 SEWANEE ALMANAC

College of Arts & Sciences:

- Total enrollment in the College: **1,755**
- Total aid awarded to College students from Constituent Dioceses: **\$41M**
- Total number of Episcopal College students from all 27 Constituent Dioceses: **319**

School of Theology:

- Enrollment in the seminary: **57**
- **100%** of seminarians who applied for financial aid received support
- Constituent Dioceses represented by current seminary student body: **23**

HOW YOUR DIOCESE SUPPORTS SEWANEE FINANCIALLY

(Includes Sewanee Fund and capital project gifts for the fiscal year 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023)

- Diocesan support in FY23: **\$2,000**
- Support from parishes in the diocese: **\$4,250**
- Percentage of parishes in the diocese that made a gift to Sewanee: **8%**

Sewanee is committed to meeting our students' full financial need. Your support helps us meet this goal.

HOW YOUR DIOCESE ENGAGES WITH SEWANEE

- College students from the diocesan area: **32**
- Seminarians from the diocese: **1**
- School of Theology alumni currently serving in the diocese: **13**
- E/M groups in the diocese: **6**

YOUR TRUSTEES

- The Rt. Rev. Ruth M. Woodliff-Stanley
- Michael K. Battle, 2024
- The Rev. Canon Ryan Currie, 2025
- Laura Marshall, 2026

YOUR SEMINARIANS

- Eric Bash, T'24 - Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston

Staff Contacts:

The Rev. Casey Perkins, T'22, Director of Church Relations • 931.598.1316 | casey.perkins@sewanee.edu

Mary Catherine Alexander, Assistant Director of Church Relations • 931.598.1237 | mcalexan@sewanee.edu



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 85 years. In 1951, a larger portion of Seabrook Island was donated to the Diocese, 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. 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.

Leadership

From October 2022 until August 2023, the Rev. Deacon Helen and Rick Hargreaves served as interim Executive Directors. They skillfully shepherded St. Christopher through the early days of the transition, and we remain grateful for their wise, steady leadership. In June 2023, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley called the Rev. Laura Rezac, who had served as the Chair of the St. Christopher Steering Committee, to be the new Executive Director. St. Christopher is grateful for all who served in a leadership role during this season of transition, including Brian Monroe; the Rev. Jennie Olbrych; our ECCC consultants, Rob Watson and Stuart Campbell; and of course, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley.

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 intentional updates to our property to address deferred maintenance that accumulated during the pandemic. One major priority is our dining hall, which suffered a major electrical fire in December of 2021. We are still working through the insurance claim process, with the aid of Chancellor Skip Utsey. Our dining services are currently operating out of a temporary trailer, but we are also preparing to begin a project to renovate the Barnacle, a garage attached to Susanna's House, to create a kitchen that will be more comfortable and serviceable while we are waiting for the ultimate resolution and rebuilding of a permanent Dining Hall.

Barrier Island Environmental Education

Our Barrier Island Environmental Education Program is back in full swing, following reduced operations during Covid. We are grateful for the service of Laurinda Rapp, the Director of our Barrier Island program, for her leadership with our staff, in both the programmatic areas and also as a mentor and advocate for her team. We also are grateful to Liz Pigg, the Assistant Director, and Jared Crain, who serves as senior naturalist and leader of our Outdoor Encounters program. Both make invaluable contributions to the success of our program.

Each year, we recruit recent college graduates to serve as staff naturalists, which includes the opportunity to live here at St. Christopher in an intentional Christian community. Last year, our team served over 7000 students, and we are anticipating an even higher number this current season. We are turning our attention to improving our financial aid capacity, including engaging in fundraising efforts like our Barrier Island 5K coming up on April 20, 2024. Our goal is to ensure that schools that might otherwise be unable to access our programming due to cost will have the support they need to make a trip possible. Our staff is also engaging in community outreach, including scheduling visits to Title 1 schools that are offered free of charge.

Outdoor Encounters

Our Outdoor Encounters program, led by Jared Crain, 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.

Summer Camp

We are thrilled to have the leadership of Renzi Ricketts, our new Director of Summer Camp, who comes to us with experience at Episcopal camps in Arkansas and Colorado. Summer of 2023 was her first summer with us, and the first summer in ten years of having summer camp at St. Christopher under Episcopal auspices. Renzi assembled a diverse staff that included students from Voorhees University, naturalists from our Barrier Island program, and college and high school students from throughout South Carolina. She is to be commended for her leadership and resourcefulness, especially since she only joined us in January 2023, five short months before staff training began.

Looking ahead to this summer, we are thrilled to announce our 2024 camp schedule. Early registration for Episcopal/ACNA campers will run from November 27 until December 10 of this year. General registration for all campers will open on January 22, 2024. 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 boating, swimming, archery, rock wall, hiking, and the surprise hit of last summer, hammocking! It's going to be a blast - join us!

2024 Summer Camp Details

EARLY REGISTRATION FOR EPISCOPAL & ACNA CAMPERS
NOV. 27TH, 2023 8:00 AM-DEC. 10TH, 2023 8:00 PM

GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR ALL CAMPERS
JAN. 22ND, 2024 8 AM

Dates	Camp/Grade	Cost
1 Mon-Wed (June 10-12)	Rising 1st-3rd	\$350
2 Fri-Sun (June 14-16)	Family Camp	Varies
3 Tues-Sat (June 18-22)	Rising 2nd- 4th	\$650
4 Mon-Fri (June 24-28)	Rising 3rd-5th	\$650
5 Mon-Wed (July 1-3)	OAC (Rising 3rd-8th)	\$350
6 Mon-Fri (July 8-12)	Rising 6th-8th	\$650
7 Mon-Fri (July 15-19)	Rising 9th-12th	\$650
8 Mon-Fri (July 22-26)	Siblings Camp (Rising 3rd-8th)	Varies
9 Mon-Wed (July 29-31)	Boating Camp (Rising 3rd-8th)	\$350
10 Fri-Sun (August 2-4)	Sports Camp (Rising 4th-6th)	\$350
11 Tues-Thu (August 6-8)	Specialty Camp	Varies
12 Fri-Sun (August 9-11)	Family Camp	Varies

Please know that we do have financial aid available. In the tradition of St. Christopher's origins, we want to ensure that every child has access to this summer camp experience.

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.

For everyone:

- Most importantly, please pray for St. Christopher, including all staff and guests.
- Book a retreat or conference at St. Christopher, whether that is for your vestry, a parish retreat, or for a community organization.
- Stay with us for a personal retreat: a way for individuals and families to experience the rest, reflection, and renewal that St. Christopher offers.
- Join us for our Barrier Island 5K on April 20, 2024! This will be a day of environmental education, food trucks, music, and fun for the whole family, even if you choose not to run the 5K course.
- Do you enjoy painting, maintenance work, or have other handy skills and could volunteer your time? Are you interested in forming a team to come out to St. Christopher for a mission workday? The facilities staff are interested in working with folks who could potentially assist with small projects on the grounds. We recently had a wonderful service project completed by the youth of our diocese - what might you feel called to do?
- There are limited opportunities to serve as volunteer weekend hosts at St. Christopher. Hosts stay overnight at St. Christopher for the weekend and assist with our hospitality ministry. Contact Rev. Laura to learn more.
- A little-known fact about St. Christopher is that we have a burial ground, located in front of the Chapel of the Palms and overlooking the estuary. It is a beautiful spot for a final resting place. If you would like to learn more about our burial ground, please contact Rev. Laura for more information.
- Please consider supporting St. Christopher with a financial gift. You can contribute to our Camperships, which enable children with financial need to attend camp; our Barrier Island Scholarship Program, which provides funding for schools with demonstrated financial need to join us for our once-in-a-lifetime environmental education experience; and our Annual Fund, which ensures your contribution will go to the place of greatest need. You can make a contribution here (<https://tinyurl.com/44j7axz2>). Select St. Christopher, and indicate how you would like to direct your donation in the memo line.

For children and youth:

- Sign up for camp! Adults, encourage your children, grandchildren, godchildren, and all children and youth in your parish, school, and neighborhood to join us for camp this summer.

- Encourage high school students to apply to be Counselors-In-Training (CITs) this summer. They can participate on a week-by-week basis.

For emerging adults:

- Share the opportunity to be a counselor at St. Christopher with college-age students. We offer certification opportunities in kayaking, sailing, archery, and rock wall for qualified candidates, along with room, board, compensation, training, and support that follows them throughout their professional life as a young adult.
- Encourage college students who are about to graduate to consider applying to serve as a staff naturalist for the 2024-2025 school year. Degrees in biology, environmental studies, or education are helpful, but not necessary. Room, board, and all training are provided, along with a stipend. This is a wonderful opportunity to live in an intentional Christian community on the beach, while also gaining valuable professional experience in a supportive, loving environment.

For clergy and lay church professionals:

- Priests, please offer discretionary funds to families who need financial assistance to attend camp.
- This spring, sign your parish up for a week to support our summer camp counselors through intentional prayer, with the option to provide a monetary gift for a special meal or goodie bags to bring a smile to our staff.
- Clergy and lay youth leaders, prayerfully consider serving as a chaplain during summer camp.
- Clergy are invited to speak with Rev. Laura about joining us for staff chapel on Thursday afternoons. Our staff is always grateful for the presence of our diocesan clergy who join us for Holy Eucharist.
- Clergy and lay church professionals seeking Sabbath time are invited to stay at St. Christopher at special respite rates. Contact Rev. Laura for more information.

Contact information

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

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

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

Outdoor Encounters, Jared Crain (jcrain@stchristopher.org, 843-768-1337)