

# Convention Study Material

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50th Annual Diocesan Convention | February 26-27, 2021 | Online



**GO FORWARD**  
**LIFE TOGETHER**

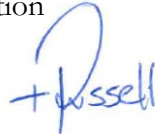
Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast





## The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

17 February 2021

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Delegates to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
**FROM:** The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick   
**REFERENCE:** Study Material for the 2021 Diocesan Convention

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE – THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL CONVENTION THIS YEAR \*\*\***

I regret that we will not be able to gather together in person for our 50<sup>th</sup> annual convention. Still, I look forward to our work and fellowship next week. Please set aside some time to review the enclosed materials.

Enclosed is study material for Diocesan Convention which includes: Schedule of Events; List of Delegates; Reports; Budgets; and Standing Committee nominations. Please refer to the reverse of this memorandum for some notes regarding the 2021 Diocesan Convention activities.

**CONVENTION CHECK-IN** – The Friday, February 26, Opening Service and Bishop's Address will be livestreamed at 6:00 p.m. (no Zoom meeting), and check-in for the Saturday, February 27, Business Session will be from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Delegates will check-in by logging into Zoom and VPOLL (links will be emailed Friday morning). If an alternate attends in place of a delegate, the alternate must register to be certified as a delegate by completing and submitting the Delegate Change Form (included in this packet).

**NECROLOGY** – Please complete the on-line form on the Diocesan website [2021 Diocesan Convention Necrology Reporting Form](#) no later than Tuesday, February 23, the names of former delegates to Diocesan Conventions (including the Dioceses of Alabama and Florida which once included this diocese) who have died since the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention last year.

JRK/mrp

## *Notes regarding 2021 Diocesan Convention*

**REPORTS** – Other than select presentations, Agency and Commission/Committee reports will be filed by title. Delegates are encouraged to read the reports included in this packet.

**RULES OF ORDER** –Special Rules of Order are included with this packet of information. Because of the necessity for a virtual convention, please read the proposed special rules of order that will be adopted at the beginning of our business session.

**OPEN HEARING ON THE 2021 BUDGET** – 3:00pm on Friday, February 26 via ZOOM (link will be provided in advance and session will be recorded). The proposed budget for 2021 will be presented with an open discussion with all delegates. This will provide an opportunity for delegates to better understand the Diocese's finances and have answered any questions they might have. The Convention Committee on Finance will present its report to the Convention Saturday afternoon, for a vote on the 2021 budget.

**PRAYER ROOM** – The Order of the Daughters of the King® will be praying from their homes for the needs by members of our community and for our gathered convention while we are in session. This packet includes details on how to submit a specific prayer request.

**ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE** - There are pre-filed nominations for Standing Committee members. The Convention will be electing two (2) lay representatives and one (1) clergy representative for the Standing Committee; plus the Bishop's nominees for Standing Committee. These elections will be held during the Saturday morning business session. Per Rule XI, Section 2, pg 242 of the 2019 Diocesan Journal:

“If, after the second ballot, all open positions are not filled by majority vote, then on the third and next succeeding ballots, there shall be retained only twice the number of nominees as there are unfilled positions, said nominees to be taken from those receiving the highest number of votes, until, by majority vote, a nominee is elected.”



*St. Simon's on the Sound*

Episcopal Church • Fort Walton Beach, Florida

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February 26, 2021

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Central Gulf Coast,

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of St. Simon's on the Sound to the 50th Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. What a difference a year makes!

As I looked at Rector/Dean welcome letters from previous years, I was really grieved we would not be able to provide the wonderful hospitality for you we have enjoyed from other hosts over the years. However, the people of St. Simon's are with you in spirit and prayer as we all join together virtually for this occasion.

No one would have dreamed a year ago we would have this historic occasion via the magic of the Internet, but here we are. As many have said, the church has not closed a single day of this pandemic and the same is true of our Diocese. We continue to do our best as disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim welcome in His name to all.

Please offer prayers of thanksgiving and support to the diocesan staff upon whose shoulders this electronic convention falls. I am constantly amazed by all they are able to do on our behalf.

With gratitude to our Bishop, Russell, and all who are joining us for this convention, we bid you welcome and God's blessings for you and your ministries.

In Christ,

The Reverend J. David Knight  
Rector, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL



***A sacramental church, striving to know Christ and make Him known.***

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**The Fiftieth Annual Convention  
The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
Virtual | St. Simon's on the Sound, Fort Walton Beach, Florida  
26 - 27 February 2021**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND CONVENTION AGENDA**

<b>Friday, February 26, 2021</b>	
3:00 p.m.	<b>2021 Budget Hearing (via ZOOM)</b>
4:00 p.m.	<b>Convention Committee on Finance meeting (via ZOOM)</b>
6:00 p.m.	<b>Convention Opening Service (via livestream)</b>
<b>Saturday, February 27, 2021</b>	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Delegates Log into ZOOM and V Poll (quorum question posted)</b>
9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	<b>First Business Session (Church Nave – Virtual Streaming)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize for Business</li> </ul> Virtual Exhibits Hall Open   Social Media . . . . #DIOCGC21
9:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	<b>Breakout Rooms (Conversation on Baptism)</b>
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Second Business Session (Church Nave – Virtual Streaming)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Clergy Spouse Virtual Gathering at 11:30 a.m. (via ZOOM)</b></li> <li>Seat and Voice announcement</li> </ul>
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bishop's Nominations; Elections</li> </ul>
12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standing Committee Report</li> <li>Video Reports of Discipleship, Development, Discernment</li> <li>Convention Committee on Finance Report and Adopt Budget</li> </ul>
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports; Presentation of New Clergy; Future Convention Dates</li> </ul> <b>CONVENTION IS ADJOURNED AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS and BAPTISMAL COVENANT!</b>
<b>Immediately following Close of Convention</b>	<b>Standing Committee meets briefly (via ZOOM)</b>

**\*\*\*Times for scheduled events are estimates – with this being our first Virtual Convention, keep in mind the schedule may run faster than anticipated \*\*\***

**Lay Delegates and Alternates to the 50th Annual Diocesan Convention  
of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**

<b>Congregation/Convocation</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Convocation I	Barbara	Horner	Youth Delegate - Alternate
Convocation I	Mary	Horner	Youth Delegate
Convocation II	Susannah	Jackson	Youth Delegate
Convocation III	Cole	Stevenson	Youth Delegate
Convocation IV	No delegate		
Convocation V	No delegate		
Andalusia, St. Mary's	Pamela	Christian	Lay Delegate
	Debra	Gamble	Lay Delegate
	Tim	Mersmann	Lay Delegate
Atmore, St. Anna's	No delegate		
Atmore, Trinity	No delegate		
Bay Minette, Immanuel	Janet	Moulton	Lay Delegate
	Jan	Ingram	Alternate Delegate
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	Michelle	Griffiths	Lay Delegate
	Leah	Junkins	Lay Delegate
	Debbie	Waldrop	Lay Delegate
	Charlotte	Green	Alternate Delegate
Brewton, St. Stephen's	Vivan	Layton	Lay Delegate
	Salem	Saloom	Lay Delegate
	Dianne	Saloom	Lay Delegate
	Steve	Layton	Alternate Delegate
Cantonment, St. Monica's	Kyle	Gallagher	Lay Delegate
	Bill	Hart	Lay Delegate
	Julie	Hart	Lay Delegate
	Dora	Giles	Alternate Delegate
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	No delegate		
Chipley, St. Matthew's	William	Smith	Lay Delegate
	Mimi	Smith	Alternate Delegate
Citronelle, St. Thomas	No delegate		
Coden, St. Mary's By the Sea	Chris	Douglas	Lay Delegate

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Crestview, Epiphany	No delegate		
Daphne, St. Paul's	Necie	Borroni	Lay Delegate
	Liston	Jones	Lay Delegate
	Terri	McMillan	Lay Delegate
	Howard	Wilson	Lay Delegate
	Gaye	Wilson	Lay Delegate
	Rosemary	Bing	Alternate Delegate
	Donna	Brown	Alternate Delegate
	Joe	Cook	Alternate Delegate
Dauphin Island, St. Francis	No delegate		
DeFuniak Springs, St. Agatha's	Gail	Brown	Lay Delegate
	Mary	Wejroch	Alternate Delegate
Destin, St. Andrew's By the Sea	Becky	Chidsey	Lay Delegate
	Ron	Marro	Lay Delegate
	Rick	Boyer	Alternate Delegate
	Barbara	Nelson	Alternate Delegate
Dothan, Church of the Nativity	Harry	Hall	Lay Delegate
	Stuart	Ibberson	Lay Delegate
	Ken	Thomas	Lay Delegate
	Bryan	Zeron	Lay Delegate
Enterprise, Church of the Epiphany	Ann	Shepard	Lay Delegate
	Peggy	Spiliotis	Alternate Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Phil	Clayton	Lay Delegate
	Gary	Jones	Lay Delegate
	Brad	Moore	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Kris	Bradley	Lay Delegate
	Drew	Downey	Lay Delegate
	Roger	Guilian	Lay Delegate
	Ellen	Huckabay	Lay Delegate
	Terry	Moore	Lay Delegate
	Jeanie	Smith	Lay Delegate
Foley, St. Paul's	Katherine	Allen	Lay Delegate
	Dianne	Cotton	Lay Delegate
	Charles	Cotton	Lay Delegate
	Helen	Lambard	Lay Delegate

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Ft. Walton Beach, St. Simon's On the Sound	Carter	Caywood	Lay Delegate
	Christin	Cothran	Lay Delegate
	Keith	Greene	Lay Delegate
	Mark	Sheltra	Lay Delegate
	Samantha	West	Alternate Delegate
Greenville, St. Thomas	Susan	Andrews	Lay Delegate
	Bill	Hamilton	Lay Delegate
	Jean	Hancock	Lay Delegate
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis of Assisi	Harriet	Gossett	Lay Delegate
	Darrell	Gossett	Lay Delegate
	John	Griffing	Lay Delegate
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	Linda	Martin	Lay Delegate
	Steve	Martin	Lay Delegate
	John	Pierce	Lay Delegate
Jackson, St. Peter's	Bebe	Garrett	Lay Delegate
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas By the Sea	Joanne	Hoff	Lay Delegate
	Ellena	Roland	Lay Delegate
	Marna	Zok	Alternate Delegate
Lillian, Church of the Advent	Priscilla	Condon	Lay Delegate
Magnolia Springs, St. Paul's Chapel	Lolly	Holk	Lay Delegate
	Elizabeth	Kennington	Lay Delegate
	Lisa	May	Lay Delegate
	Von	Nix	Alternate Delegate
Marianna, St. Luke's	Christine	Sharkey-Tillman	Lay Delegate
	Dwight	Tillman	Lay Delegate
	Margaret	Watkins	Lay Delegate
	George	Hutton	Alternate Delegate
Milton, St. Mary's	Carol	Culton	Lay Delegate
	Elizabeth	Hamilton	Lay Delegate
	Mark	Starr	Lay Delegate

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Mobile, All Saints	Molly	Allison	Lay Delegate
	Gail	Bramer	Lay Delegate
	John	Halbrooks	Lay Delegate
	Jeannie	Kienzle	Lay Delegate
	Marilyn	Owens	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Harwell	Coale	Lay Delegate
	Carl	Cunningham	Lay Delegate
	Carolyn	Eichold	Lay Delegate
	Jubal	Hamil	Lay Delegate
	Carolyn	Jeffers	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Church of the Good Shepherd	Daisy	Branch	Lay Delegate
	Vera	Finley	Lay Delegate
	LaWana	Kennedy	Lay Delegate
	Denise	Campbell	Alternate Delegate
	Tyra	Lancaster	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, Church of the Redeemer	Bridget	Archer	Lay Delegate
	Joan	Chadick	Lay Delegate
	Ellen	Copeland	Lay Delegate
	Beth	Gillion	Alternate Delegate
	Bill	Watt	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, St. Andrew's	No delegate		
Mobile, St. John's	Janet	Buckley	Lay Delegate
	James	Christiansen	Lay Delegate
	Eugene	Johnston	Lay Delegate
	Connie	McLean	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, St. Luke's	Diane	Engels	Lay Delegate
	Marilyn	Fisher	Lay Delegate
	Patricia	Ramage	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Mark's for the Deaf	No delegate		
Mobile, St. Paul's	Brad	Clark	Lay Delegate
	Porter	Elder	Lay Delegate
	Minette	Elder	Lay Delegate
	Katherine	Lambert	Lay Delegate
	Patricia	Powe	Lay Delegate
	Anne Marie	Russell	Lay Delegate

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Mobile, Trinity	Bob	Howard	Lay Delegate
	Anna Lisa	Tessier	Lay Delegate
	Jameson	White	Lay Delegate
	Anne	Gill	Alternate Delegate
	Martha	Jones	Alternate Delegate
Monroeville, St. John's	Stuart	Richeson	Lay Delegate
	Haden	Tirey	Lay Delegate
Navarre, St. Augustine's	Stephen	Bouchard	Lay Delegate
	John	Carlson	Lay Delegate
Niceville, St. Jude	Michelle	Crawford	Lay Delegate
	Debra	Kosche	Lay Delegate
	Eric	Kosche	Lay Delegate
	Jeff	Howard	Alternate Delegate
	John	Stuckey	Alternate Delegate
Ozark, St. Michael's	Jeffrey	Babine	Lay Delegate
Panama City Beach, Grace	Daphne	Dove-Pierce	Lay Delegate
	Bonnie	Hale	Lay Delegate
	Carl	Walters	Alternate Delegate
Panama City, Holy Nativity	John	Durgan	Lay Delegate
	A.J.	Jeffery	Lay Delegate
	Beverly	McDaniel	Lay Delegate
	Kathy	Mills	Lay Delegate
	Madge	Smith	Lay Delegate
Panama City, St. Andrew's	Teri	Floore	Lay Delegate
	Frank	Lopez	Lay Delegate
Panama City, St. Patrick's	Lynn	Ferren	Lay Delegate
	Susan	Bravo	Alternate Delegate
Pensacola, Christ Church Parish	Laura	Boyles	Lay Delegate
	Jane	Dysart	Lay Delegate
	Mike	Floyd	Lay Delegate
	Rita	Grayson	Lay Delegate
	June	Linke	Lay Delegate
	Lee	Wright	Lay Delegate

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Pensacola, Holy Cross	Susan	Bell	Lay Delegate
	Angela	Hinkle	Lay Delegate
	Howard	Johnson	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	Karen	Abney	Lay Delegate
	Sally	Crenshaw	Lay Delegate
	Ted	Kirchharr	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	Mary Ann	Bozeman	Lay Delegate
	Frank	Gilliam	Lay Delegate
	Laura	Grimm	Lay Delegate
	Skip	Snow	Lay Delegate
	Audrey	Snow	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	Cris	Turnage	Lay Delegate
	Nettie	Eaton	Alternate Delegate
Pensacola, St. John's	Carol	Patterson	Lay Delegate
	Gerogeanna	Presnell	Lay Delegate
	Kathryn	Vincze	Lay Delegate
	Tom	Patterson	Alternate Delegate
Port St. Joe, St. James	No delegate		
Robertsdale, St. John the Evangelist	Randy	Terry	Lay Delegate
Santa Rosa Beach, Christ the King	Richard	Jacobs	Lay Delegate
	Nan	Jacobs	Lay Delegate
	Bryan	Whitehead	Lay Delegate
Troy, St. Mark's	Joyce	Landers	Lay Delegate
	Avie	Medeiros	Lay Delegate
	Donna	Schubert	Lay Delegate
Wewahitchka	No delegate		

CLERGY DELEGATES TO THE FIFTIETH  
ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

The Right Reverend James Russell Kendrick  
(Robin) Bishop

**VOTING CLERGY**

**Canon 3, Section 4 (a) - 2020 Diocesan Journal**

“Section 4. The voting membership of the convention shall consist of:

a. Clerical Delegates, each of whom shall be either a priest canonically resident in the Diocese, and who is Rector or Curate or Priest-in-Charge in a parish, or Vicar of a mission, or who is on the staff of the Diocese or an Agency of the Diocese; or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese who has retired in accordance with the General Canons and who serves in one of the aforesaid positions with the express approval of the Bishop according to the General Canons; or a Deacon assigned by the Ecclesiastical Authority to a parish or mission or an Agency of the Diocese.”

ADAMS, W. Rian (Amber)  
BACKUS, Timothy W. (Sarah)  
BALLARD, Michael E. L.  
BATES, Steven B. (Lori)  
BLAYLOCK, Joy H. (Roy)

BORGEN, Linda Suzanne  
BURGESS, William O. (Emma)  
CHATEL, David R. (Alice)  
CLOTHIER, David M. (Cathy)  
CRAVER, III, P. Marshall (Jan)  
DIXON, Robert P. (Amanda)  
DONNELL, Robert M. (Cynthia)  
DYSON, Thack H. (Rebecca)  
FLOWERS, James B. (Katharine)  
FREEMAN, Denson F. (Stephanie)  
GEORGE, John C. (Caren)  
GIBSON, Beverly F. (Mike)  
GILLET, Kathryn S.  
HEARD, Thomas K. (Cheryl)  
HOFFMAN, Michael P. (Amy)  
HORD, Christine D. (Rick)  
HUNGERFORD, Roger A. (Liz)  
JOHNSON, Lydia K. (Wyatt)  
KNIGHT, J. David (Jennifer)  
LEDGERWOOD, Mary Jayne  
LOCKETT, Tina L.  
LOWRY, III, William M. (Ivee)  
MacWHINNIE, II, Anthony E. (Elizabeth)  
MATHISON, Mary Alice

**Voting Clergy (cont'd)**

St. Andrew's, Panama City (Rector)  
St. Francis, Gulf Breeze (Rector)  
St. Peter's, Jackson (Vicar) \*  
Holy Nativity, Panama City (Rector)  
St. Cyprian's, Pensacola (Vicar)  
Dean, CGC School for Ministry  
St. Thomas, Greenville (Rector)  
St. Paul's, Mobile (Curate)  
St. Stephen's, Brewton (Rector) \*  
Epiphany, Crestview (Vicar) \*  
Diocesan Office (Clergy Spiritual Advisor)  
Holy Cross, Pensacola (Rector)  
All Saints, Mobile (Transitional Deacon) \*  
St. Paul's, Daphne (Rector)  
All Saints, Mobile (Rector)  
St. James, Fairhope (Rector)  
Good Shepherd, Mobile (Rector)  
Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile (Dean/Rector)  
Christ Church, Pensacola (Curate)  
St. John's, Mobile (Rector)  
Christ Church, Pensacola (Rector)  
St. John's, Pensacola (Rector)  
Holy Cross, Pensacola (Priest Associate)  
Diocesan Office (Missioner for Development) \*  
St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach (Rector)  
Trinity, Mobile (Rector) \*  
Church of the Advent, Lillian (Vicar) \*  
Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores (Rector)  
St. Monica's, Cantonment (Rector)  
St. Luke's, Mobile (Curate) \*



McELROY, James T. (Peyton)  
PHILLIPS, Sara D. (Gerry)  
PROCTOR, Richard G. (Emily)  
RIGGIN, John H. (Lauree)  
ROCKWELL, III, Reuben L. (Erin)  
SIRMON, T. Forbes (Haden)  
SOWERS, Susan R. (Donna)  
TALBERT, John K. (Leslie)  
ZILE, Eric N.  
ZUBLER, Eric J. (Connie)

St. Luke's, Mobile (Rector)  
St. Mary's, Coden (Vicar)  
Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach (Rector)  
St. Paul's, Mobile (Rector)  
St. Paul's, Mobile (Curate)  
St. James, Fairhope (Curate)  
St. Christopher's, Pensacola (Rector)  
St. Paul's, Daphne (Curate) \*  
Trinity, Apalachicola (Rector)  
St. Paul's, Magnolia Springs (Rector)

**Retired Clergy having cures/serving under Canon 3, Section 4 (a) in the Diocese (with vote)**

CUMBIE, W. Kenneth (Joan)  
ELAM, III, Walter L. (Anne)  
GRAVES, L. Roberts (Jane)  
GREEN, David K. (Charlotte)  
HEIN, C. Gregory (Cindy)  
HICKS, John W. (Patricia)  
HUFT, Jerry R.  
JENCKS, Jeffrey A. (Eileen)  
KENNINGTON, S. Albert (Nancy)  
PHILLIPS, Julia C. (Dick)  
POPHAM, James J. (Jo)  
POPHAM, Jo A. P. (Jim)  
PORTER, Roger C.  
SCHMIDT, Richard H. (Pam)  
SHEPARD, Margaret S.  
WITHROCK, Jr., John W. (Elaine)

Redeemer, Mobile (P-i-C)  
St. John's, Robertsdale (Vicar)  
Holy Trinity, Pensacola (P-i-C)  
St. Peter's, Bon Secour (P-i-C) \*  
St. Mary's, Andalusia (Interim-Rector) \*  
St. Andrew's, Mobile (Vicar)  
St. John, Wewahitchka (Vicar)  
St. John's, Monroeville (P-i-C)  
Immanuel, Bay Minette (Vicar)  
St. Patrick's, Panama City (Vicar)  
St. Andrew's, Destin (Co-P-i-C) \*  
St. Andrew's, Destin (Co-P-i-C) \*  
St. Francis', Dauphin Island (Vicar)  
Diocesan Coordinator (Chaplain to the Retired)  
St. Mary's, Milton (Priest-in-Charge)  
Epiphany, Enterprise (Vicar)

**Vocational Deacons assigned to cures (with vote)**

GARRITY, Clelia  
GOFF, Terry L. (John)  
HEWIS, Clara M.  
IVERSEN, Rachel S. (Craig)  
KENDALL, John T. (Barbara)  
McKEE, Susan R.  
RICHARDS, Edward T. (Gayle)  
SPENCER, Patricia A.

St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach  
Trinity, Mobile  
Azalea Trace Retirement Community, Pens  
Christ Church, Pensacola \*  
St. Mary's, Milton \*  
St. Paul's, Magnolia Springs \*  
Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach \*  
St. Cyprian's, Pensacola

## **OTHER CLERGY**

### **Non-canonically Resident Clergy appointed/serving in the Diocese (given seat & voice)**

GENTRY, B. Massey (Jan)	Canon to the Ordinary (Part-time)
JOHNSON, David H. (Nora)	St. Paul's, Foley (Interim-Rector) *
+MILLER, Steven A [retired Bishop] (Cynthia)	St. Agatha's, DeFuniak Springs (P-i-C) *
OTT, Robert M. (Bonnie)	St. Luke's, Marianna (P-i-C) *

### **Resident Clergy in Communion with TEC appointed to cures in the Diocese (given seat & voice)**

VIGE, C. Handlee (Lynne)	St. Jude's, Niceville (ELCA Priest-in-Charge) *
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### **Non-Parochial (with seat & voice)**

COLEMAN, John (Mary)  
PLOVANICH, Ede M. (Bob)  
YOUNG, Kammy M. B. (+George)

### **Vocational Deacons retired/not assigned (with seat & voice)**

BRENEMEN, Betty Jo	<i>retired</i>
BREWER, John L. (Toni)	Currently unassigned
CARSON, Jayne	<i>retired</i>
DEAN, Bobby W.	<i>retired</i>
KELSON, Laura J.	Currently unassigned

### **Retired Clergy (with seat & voice)**

BAKER, Milledge L. (Barbara)	
BALDWIN, Gary L. (Kathy)	
BETENBAUGH, Helen R.	
BOGAN, III, L. Eugene	
BRIGHT, Carl C.	
BROWN, Dennis R. A.	
BYRD, Jeffrey Y. (Beth Ensor)	
CARTER, Cynthia A.	*
COATS, Christopher V. (Barbara)	
COOK, Johnny W. (Mary)	
COOPER, IV, Francis M. (Martha)	
DAY, Dennis L. (Marjorie)	
DOLLHAUSEN, Matthew M. (Vickie)	
+DUNCAN, II, Philip M (Kathy)	III Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast
DWYER, Thomas P. J. (Lynn)	*
GARNER, Jeffrey R. (Angela)	
GRAHAM, W. Newell (Mary Hair)	
GREISER, Ronald E. (Rita)	
HAGBERG, Joseph A.	
HARRIS, Martha C. (Edward)	
HICKENLOOPER, A. Morgan (Mary Kennedy)	
HILL, H. Michael (Geneva)	
<b>Retired Clergy (cont'd)</b>	

JAMES, C. Scott (Sylvia)  
 JAMES, William. E.  
 KINDERGAN, Walter B. (Becky) \*  
 KLOPFENSTEIN, Timothy D. (Hannah)  
 KNIGHT, Joseph S. (Anne)  
 KREAMER, Martha H. \*  
 LINDSTROM, Jr., D. Fredrick (Marcia)  
 LOCKETT, Donna A.  
 MAYER, Sandra C.  
 McDOWELL-FLEMING, David H. (Martha)  
 McLUEN, Roy E. (Kathy)  
 McMAHAN, Larry W.  
 MURRAY, John W. (Sara Ann)  
 NIXON, Thomas E.  
 PHILLIPS, II, John W. (Ann)  
 POWERS, David A. (Celeste)  
 PRUITT, Albert W. (Ellanor)  
 RIGGALL, George G. (Marguerita)  
 ROBERT, Mary C.  
 SCHROETER, George H.  
 SCHULENBERG, Michael A. (Karen)  
 STARR, Mark L. (Barbara)  
 TALBERT, T. Keith (Lynn) \*  
 TIPTON, Harry S.  
 TOTMAN, Glenn P. (Nancy)  
 TRIMBLE, Sarah M. (Henry)  
 VALCOURT, Theodore P-F. (Rosalyn)  
 WATKINS, Jane A. (John)  
 WAVE, John E. (Mary June)  
 WELLER, Jr., Thomas C. (Linda) \*  
 WHITELOW, E. Drake  
 WOMELSDORF, Charles S. (Sarah)

### **OTHER CLERGY**

#### **Non-canonical Clergy Resident in the Diocese (given seat and voice)**

+BIGGERS, Jackson C.	Assistant Bishop, Upper Shire Malawi, <i>retired</i>
+JONES, CI (Ashby)	Bishop of Montana, <i>retired</i>
JUCHTER, Mark R.	Chaplain, Tyndall AFB, Panama City
NICHOLS, III, Robert G. (Diana)	Diocese of Texas
TIFF, II, Richard O.	Navy Chaplain, NAS, Pensacola
+YOUNG, George D. (Kammy)	Bishop of East Tennessee, <i>retired</i>

\* indicates clergy new to the Diocese, in new positions, or recently retired

## 2021 Standing Committee Nominations

### CLERGY NOMINEE



**Nominee:** The Rev. William Lowry

**Church:** Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

**Nominated by:** Linda Martin

**Church:** Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

**Occupation:** Priest

**Information forthcoming**

### LAY NOMINEE



**Nominee:** Anne Gill

**Church:** Trinity, Mobile

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison

**Church:** Missioner to Mobile; St. Luke's, Mobile

**Occupation:** Part-time educator; full-time wife/mother

**Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:** I have both served on the Vestry and as the senior warden at Trinity, Mobile. Also at Trinity, I have chaired a Search Committee, led and taught our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children's formation program, and served on the Altar Guild along with various committees throughout my twenty years there. I am also a member of the Daughters of the King. In our diocese, I currently sit on the Youth Ministries committee and on the Board of Trustees for Wilmer Hall. At St. Paul's Episcopal School, I have worked in various part-time teaching positions and volunteered in many different capacities, including chairing the Parent Council and co-chairing the parent fundraiser, Saints' Night Out.

**What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?** The biggest challenge to both the local church and the diocese at this time is the limitations due to coronavirus. Our usual forms of worship and community building have to be rethought and carefully planned if held at all. There is Zoom fatigue, and online worship simply does not feel the same. While we await herd immunity, those of us in the church are called to find innovative ways to consider not what we cannot do but instead how we can do things differently, safely, and creatively. While it is difficult, rethinking can be exciting, and hopefully people who are intimidated to enter an older, beautiful sanctuary may find comfort in more relaxed outdoor and/or online worship.

## 2021 Standing Committee Nominations

**What sustains you in your spiritual life?** There are many things helping sustain me in my spiritual life today! Praying the Daily Office and our Daughters of the King prayer list each day connects scripture reading to my walking through life with fellow believers. I am currently in my fourth year of EfM, and this time to think theologically with others has been a great source of joy. In non-pandemic times, listening to God with the children of Trinity in our CGS atrium brings me closer to a child-like faith. Finally, time in the outdoors with my husband and four boys always brings me closer to God.

### LAY NOMINEE



**Nominee:** Van Fuller

**Church:** St. Simon's on the Sound, Fort Walton Beach

**Nominated by:** The Rev. David Knight

**Church:** St. Simon's on the Sound, Fort Walton Beach

**Occupation:** Public Administration

**Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:** Educational: BSCE, The Citadel, 1983; MPA, Troy University, 1990; Professional Military Education. Professional: retired US Air Force Civil Engineer/Mission Support Officer, 12 duty stations, 5 deployments, 7 command assignments; former Deputy Secretary of Engineering, SC DOT; currently Executive Director of Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Okaloosa County, FL. Volunteer: Spokane, WA Red Cross Board Member; Past Chair, Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee; Past Chair, Transportation Expressway Authority Membership of Florida; Various Offices, Society of American Military Engineers. DioCGC: Cursillo Commission member and treasurer; convention delegate. St. Simon's Church: Vestry, Senior Warden, Treasurer; worship leader; Eucharistic minister; Eucharistic visitor; Lector; usher; greeter.

**What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?** Improving community presence and attracting more people to Christ; attracting/sustaining youth and younger families; consistency of messaging.

**What sustains you in your spiritual life?** Prayer; worship, liturgy, and sacraments; fellowship of believers; service.

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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### REPORTS OF THE GENERAL OFFICERS:

#### SECRETARY

Report forthcoming

#### STANDING COMMITTEE

Report forthcoming

#### COMMISSION ON FINANCE

Report forthcoming

#### REGISTRAR – HISTORIOGRAPHER

The duty of the Registrar-Historiographer is to “gather, receive and safeguard all materials of historical significance in the Diocese and the several Parishes and Missions and shall present to each Convention a report of all such events as may be deemed to be of permanent interest and importance.” (Diocesan Canon 8)

Early in 2020, the COVID-19 virus slowed the work to a crawl. Later, Hurricane Sally delivered a gut punch to many of us, although thankfully not to the archives room.

Work in the Duvall Center archives room focused on settling into additional storage: two more water/fire safe filing cabinets plus a new desk. The additional file drawers provides space for our irreplaceable collection of diocesan journals from Alabama, Florida, and the Central Gulf Coast, and for our print photograph and oral history collections.

I gave assistance to the Jubilee Committee for the production of a brief video presentation of our diocesan history in the 2020 annual convention.

Progress continued in digitizing our oral history collection of 31 cassette tapes. About half of them have been digitized so far. The goal is to digitize all of them.

The print photograph collection is now accessibly arranged in archival box-albums. Beginning steps have been made in saving and organizing digital photographs although there is much more to be done. Persons wishing to use our photographs are reminded that requirements of copyright apply to many of them.

As 2020 began, my friend, June Linke of Christ Church, Pensacola, chair of the history sub-committee of the Jubilee Committee, and I continued our efforts to assemble material for producing an in-depth video history of our diocese. COVID-19 stopped us. God willing, we hope to resume our effort when we can.

On June 13, 2020, our Diocesan School for Ministry graduated its first students. At our Bishop’s request, I have created a file for collecting materials about this School and its service in our diocese. For this, I wrote a paper recording the history of formation for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church in Alabama and Florida in ways other than residential seminaries.

On October 8, 2020, friends and neighbors in our diocese and beyond were saddened to learn of the death in South Carolina of the Rt. Rev. Charles Farmer Duvall, our second bishop. At Bishop Kendrick’s request, and with the valuable contributions of 12 of his friends and colleagues, I wrote and edited a memorial article which

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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was published in the “Coastline” and also conveyed to his family. Bishop Kendrick was homilist at his funeral in Cheraw, South Carolina. These and other items will be added to our files.

I participated in the recorded service of Evening Prayer which was shown on December 3, 2020, from Christ Church, Pensacola, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Primary Convention of our Diocese there. Participants included others who were delegates or otherwise connected with the founding of our diocese. Bishop Kendrick read the sermon preached in that service by the Rt. Rev. E. Hamilton West, then Bishop of Florida.

On September 14-15, 2020, Hurricane Sally dramatically reminded us of the importance of protecting our lives, our property, and our most important church documents. As best I know, historic records survived in our congregations.

I note the death in 2020 of two friends and companions who made history and safeguarded materials of historical significance.

The Most Reverend Oscar Hugh Lipscomb, Archbishop Emeritus of Mobile, died peacefully in Mobile on October 14. This Mobile native had a heart for ecumenical and interfaith friendships. In January of 2000, he and Bishop Duvall led Celebration 2000, an event which brought together some 4,000 Mobilians of many denominations to mark the beginning of the third Christian millennium. He was a historian and writer and story teller, and a former trustee of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. My wife and I were privileged to attend his funeral.

Ms. Carolyn Levensailor of St. Paul’s, Mobile, died peacefully in her home on December 30. She was a member of St. Paul’s, Mobile, for 60 years and active in the Episcopal Churchwomen of our Diocese from the beginning when it was first called the Committee on Women’s Work – a term which did not last long! She had a singular memory of this ministry from her parish to Blue Lake to Beckwith, from diocese to the Triennial

During the tenure of my predecessor *emerita*, Kit Caffey, framed photographs of all parishes, missions, and agencies of our Diocese were mounted on the corridor wall in the Duvall Center. After Hurricane Ivan damaged the Duvall Center in 2004, Carolyn and a friend took to the highways to take new photos which are there for us now.

Carolyn did major work in organizing and safe-guarding storing the archives of Christ Church Cathedral and St. Paul’s Church, Mobile. She convinced clergy, vestries, and others to provide work space and funds. Knowing that not everyone would talk into a tape recorder, she invited parishioners to write letters with their stories. These letters make up a valuable collection. She regularly displayed photos and other materials from the archives on parish house bulletin boards to help make local history enjoyable.

I am blessed to have known Bishop Duvall, Archbishop Lipscomb, and Carolyn Levensailor as cherished friends and fellow keepers and tellers of our story.

I express enduring thanks to my friend and predecessor *emerita*, Kit Caffey, who did the big work after Hurricane Ivan in creating the archive room now entrusted to me.

I also thank the diocesan staff who work in the Duvall Center. A pile of work is always on their desks, but they always have time for a friendly chat or a helping hand.

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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I am thankful for the friendship and support of our Bishop, especially when he calls to ask me for a quick answer about some obscure antiquity – always in the best of bonds.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington, Registrar-Historiographer

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry has two primary responsibilities. The first is to assist individuals in their response to God's call to ministry. In particular, the Commission seeks to support those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry. The second responsibility is to advise the Bishop, when requested, in matters concerning discernment and formation.

#### **COM Mission Statement**

The COM seeks to prayerfully ascertain, discriminate, and discern a sense of God's call in a person's life and in the life of the church for his/her *lay or ordained vocation and ministry*.

*The Commission on Ministry will*

- *be a resource for aspirants for ordination*
- *be an advisor to the bishop concerning aspirants, postulants, and candidates*
- *be a shepherd and advocate for those being prepared for ordination, providing pastoral care and guidance on an individual basis*
- *assist the bishop in developing and furthering continuing education for the clergy of the Diocese.*

In this diocese, individuals called to ordained ministry may follow one of two separate paths. One path is for those who are called to the Priesthood. We had five (5) individuals accepted as Postulants to attend Seminary (Pam Christian, John Fountain, Jen Leahey, Stephen Pecot, and Joe Taylor). At present, seminarians from this diocese are enrolled at Virginia Theological Seminary (Craig Doshier, Amanda Doshier, Jen Leahey, and Stephen Pecot); at Yale (Ansley Walker); and Seminary of the Southwest (John Fountain, and Kenneth White-Spunner).

Our Diocesan School for Ministry has now begun its second class with two (2) postulants enrolled in the Diaconate track (Brad Clark and Deborah Knight-Epps). We had eight (8) individuals that completed their course of study as the first graduating class. Six (6) were ordained Transitional Deacons (Mike Ballard, David Chatel, David Clothier, Bob Donnell, Lydia Johnson, and John Talbert); two (2) were ordained Deacons (Rachel Iversen and John Kendall).

Discernment for those called to the Priesthood and for those called to the Diaconate requires participation by many from the community, as the individuals prayerfully seek God's direction for their lives. The Commission is grateful for the willingness of so many within this diocese to support and assist those who are examining their call to ordained ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Al Pruitt, Chair/mrp



## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### BECKWITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 has certainly been a challenging year. COVID-19 prevented Beckwith from holding summer camp sessions for the first time in our 48 year history. The camp closure combined with the inability to host retreat groups, resulted in a 70 percent loss of revenue compared to the preceding year. In this time of adversity, our team came together and met the challenges. It was a year of sacrifice, furloughs, introspection and ultimately – progress.

Beckwith was extremely quiet beginning in March through the fall. We recognized that we could use the extra time to improve the grounds and facilities. With plenty of time on their hands, but with a shortage of funds, the crew banded together, rolled up their sleeves, and got to work. This time was used to paint the exterior of Odom, paint the interiors of the buildings on campus, pressure-wash buildings, paint fences, replace and repair plumbing issues, make general repairs, renovations, and generally improve the grounds.

John has worked tirelessly maintaining his role as Operations Manager and also covering the grounds and maintenance.

Rachel has used this time to work on Beckwith's accreditation with American Camp Association. She is refining camp policies and procedures to comply with the ACA's strict standards while refining the camp structure to reflect the changing needs of camp.

Rhona has done a great job taking care of our existing groups and maintaining our longstanding relationships. She has been in continued communication with our group leaders; adjusting the schedule and filling the calendar for 2021 and 2022.

Eleanor has been amazing in her ability to keep morale high while making the tough budgeting decisions that have kept us afloat. Her tireless fundraising has expanded the donor base and almost doubled our donation income from the previous year. Without her leadership, I don't think we would have made it.

The fall gave us Hurricanes Sally and Zeta both leaving devastation to our campus and shoreline. Beckwith was blessed with the help of the Cursillo community who showed up in mass to do a day of cleanup. Two weeks later the men of St. Paul's Daphne and St. James Fairhope came to campus with chain saws, trailers, and other equipment to continue the clean-up efforts. It took several months to get the campus back in order, but we couldn't have gotten there without the help and support from our volunteers and donors.

I am happy to report that Beckwith continues to manage through COVID-19. As we prepare for 2021- we may be financially weak, but our team is stronger than ever. What we lack in funding, we more than make up for it in planning and preparation.

We are truly blessed and looking forward to the opportunities to serve you in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jubal Hamil, Board Chair

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### MURRAY HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greetings from the residents and staff at Murray House!

As I reflect back over the events of this past year, my heart is bursting with pride and admiration for the residents at Murray House. They have persevered through this last year with courage and faith. I know we have all had to make changes in our lifestyle but keep in mind; these residents have not left the building for almost a year. The isolation from their family and friends seems almost unbearable at times.

Mail has become the highlight of their day. They eagerly await the daily mail delivery. Last Christmas several churches sent Christmas cards to every resident. They were thrilled to get those cards and most of them still have them sitting out in their room. Who would have thought that such a small thing as sending a card or note could bring such joy and happiness?

This time last year we had 38 residents. Due to the pandemic we were not able to admit new residents from March - September. Our census went down to 26.

Even though we have not had a case of COVID-19 we lost 12 residents to natural causes. We are now cautiously admitting new residents and hopeful that we will be able to safely bring our census up soon. We are scheduled to have our first COVID-19 immunization January 25th.

Today our census is 29 residents. Our treasurer tells me that our break even number is 34 residents, so we have a way to go. I'm sure most of you know that unlike Wilmer Hall and Beckwith, Murray House is a self-funded non-profit entity. While we truly appreciate the \$10,000 that the Diocese gives us each year, we sincerely hope for a little more generosity during this crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Anderson, Executive Director

The Rev. Dr. Ken Cumbie, Board Chair

### WILMER HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wilmer Hall, an agency of the Diocese located in Mobile, Alabama, has been serving young people in need since 1864. It was founded by Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer, the second Bishop of Alabama. We currently have six programs: Residential, Transitional Living (TLP), Transitional Family (TFP), Education4Life, the Philippa Stirling Hamilton Education Center, and the Max Miller Education Program.

In 2020, we were challenged by the Covid-19 Pandemic, as well as two hurricanes, but we persevered, just as we have for these last 157 years. In 2020, we had a total of 51 residents in our three residential programs (Residential, TLP, TFP). In 2020, we have served 52 students in our on-site Education Program and 120 students in our two community-based education programs (the Hamilton Education Center and the Max Miller Education Program). Much of this was done through online platforms due to the pandemic. **Our total number of children and young adults served in 2020 was 223.**

We currently serve 41 students in our on-campus education program, called Education4Life. In the 11 years since its inception, the students in the program have a 100% graduation/promotion rate. We expanded our successful education model into other areas of our community in 2018 and 2019. The Hamilton Education Center serves students in the Maysville Community at Williamson Prep Middle School and the Max Miller

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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Education Program serves students at Pillans Middle School, Mobile County Training School, and Scarborough Middle School. Much of the community-based tutoring has been on hold and we expect it to be back up to 100% in August.

We launched a delivery-based food pantry in 2019. In 2020, we delivered groceries to roughly 250 individuals and families, including many of the families of our education program students this past summer.

Our staff and board continue to be good stewards of our resources as we recently passed a balanced budget as we care for our historic campus. We charge no fees for our services, of course, and receive funding from the Diocese, the United Way, and from many donations and grants. We greatly appreciate the support from the Diocese, its churches, and their congregants.

We welcome visitors from around the diocese for a visit to campus, and we are also happy to come talk to your parish or group about our mission and ministry. Please contact Pratt Paterson ([ppaterson@wilmerhall.org](mailto:ppaterson@wilmerhall.org)) or Mae Dennis ([mdennis@wilmerhall.org](mailto:mdennis@wilmerhall.org)) for more information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pratt Paterson, Executive Director

George P. Shedd, Jr., Ph.D., Board President

*The mission of Wilmer Hall Children's Home is to provide a safe home and educational resources for children and young adults in need due to poverty, abuse, neglect, and homelessness. We serve all children and young adults without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion.*

*Wilmer Hall extends warm and nurturing care to every child and young adult in its care, ensuring they are surrounded by people who love and support them. Our goal is to help children succeed in four areas: physical health, emotional stability, academic achievement, and spiritual maturity.*

*Wilmer Hall serves children and young adults through five programs: the Residential Living Program, the Transitional Living Program, the Transitional Family Program, the on-campus Education Program, and the Community-Based Education Programs.*

## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

### **Christ Church Cathedral Prayer**

*Gracious God, today we give thanks for the ministry you have entrusted to us as the cathedral church of our diocese. Help us to be faithful in answering the sacred calling to be ministers of hospitality for your people and leaders of worship to your honor and glory. May this place be a beacon of your light and love for the world. All this we ask through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Our year at Christ Church Cathedral began with a great deal of hustle and bustle. We prepared for and hosted the 49th Diocesan Convention, Life Together, Our Jubilee, on February 7 and 8, and we completed Phase II of our capital restoration and construction project.

The 2020 Diocesan Convention was planned as a two-day event on Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8. The new concept was planned to help delegates minimize time away from the office, to cut costs for parishes, and to hold all of the convention events on-site. Registration began on Friday morning, and after lunch the convention began with the opening service. The afternoon was dedicated to business and everyone

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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stayed for supper in the courtyard and a Mardi Gras parade. Business was concluded on Saturday at noon. The members of the Cathedral family were excited to open our renovated spaces to the diocese and to enjoy using them for the first time. We upgraded Wifi so that everyone could be connected and the diocese live-streamed the entire convention from the Opening Service. We are grateful to the Cathedral Family for their hard work in preparing for and executing a successful convention. We gratefully thank Audrey Cunningham, and Caroline Etherton, Chairs, Ginny Behlen, Carolyn Eichold, Cammie Israel, Lucy Wright, and all of the Cathedral Family volunteers.

Lent began with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy officiated by Bishop Russell Kendrick. We were well into the Lenten season when our nation went on lock down because of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. We, like all places of worship, were forced to move our worship and communications immediately to on-line platforms. We are grateful for the preparations from the convention that helped us transition to our new ways of worship. We moved up plans for live-streaming all services, we changed to a new website that includes many aspects of parish life, and we upgraded our Zoom account. We made plans to return to our regular worship in time for Easter, and after that we were forced to rely on faith and not make any plans.

During the summer Dean Beverly Gibson was able to complete her work on deepening her own spiritual life and for leading the Cathedral Family in spiritual growth. She completed an 18-month clergy spiritual life and leadership program through the Shalem Institute designed to help clergy live more deeply into the rich Christian tradition of contemplative spirituality. The work involved intentional deepening in prayer, reading and study, and meeting regularly with an ongoing clergy peer group as well as a lay listening group within the parish. The focus of Shalem on prayer and listening, not on developing any new programs, was a guiding principle that helped Dean Gibson and Cathedral leadership minister to the Cathedral Family through the global pandemic.

The Cathedral Family participates, as one of three churches in our diocese, in the Baptized for Life initiative sponsored by the Lilly Foundation and administered through Virginia Theological Seminary. Our project proposal had been approved in late 2019 and we were meeting regularly to implement the vision outlined in our proposal. Once the pandemic hit, BFL administrators quickly understood the need to refocus all of the projects. Carl Cunningham, Jr., a member of the BFL Leadership Team, grew a daily walk into an organized walk with purpose. The MOB Pacers has proven that walking with others can keep you motivated, make you accountable, and meet new people with similar goals. BFL saw the MOB Pacers as a group that had grown organically in our neighborhood. We hoped that by partnering with them we could bring new people to campus and use the opportunity to welcome them into our home. We refocused our project on the MOB Pacers and they began gathering in our newly refurbished buildings and courtyard. We look forward to gathering the Cathedral Family with the MOB Pacers when it is safe to gather.

Our Organist and Music Director, Christopher Powell began the busy year as we all did. He and the Cathedral choir provided the music for all of the convention liturgies. He composed Jubilee Hymn in commemoration of the 50th Jubilee. He hosted an evening concert for the American Choral Directors Association service on March 20. Once the lockdown occurred he and soprano Mollie Adams have provided music for Cathedral services each Sunday since March 22. He and Mollie recorded music for the diocesan Good Friday email, for the Diaconate Ordination, for the Jubilee Evensong, and for the Christmas I Diocesan service on December 27. Lydia Johnson and Mike Ballard, both students at the diocesan School for Ministry, were assigned to Christ Church Cathedral for their field work. Although the pandemic cut their work short, we were able to celebrate their ordination to the diaconate on July 28 with a socially distanced and masked congregation in-person and many more virtually. There were eight ordinands that day: Michael Eugene Lewis Ballard, David Richard

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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Chatel, David Michael Clothier, Robert Mark Donnell, Rachel Shannon Iversen, Lydia Knizley Johnson, John Thomas Kendall, John Keith Talbert.

Bishop Russell Kendrick joined us in the virtual Cathedral Celebration Eucharist on Sunday, April 26. It was the celebration of our 15-year anniversary of being named the Cathedral of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. While Bishop Kendrick was not in residence in the new apartment this year, we were pleased to open the space to The Rev. Marshall Carver and his wife Jan after their home was damaged during Hurricane Sally on September 16. Marshall Craver teaches Contemplative Prayer classes at the cathedral and he meets here with local clergy in his position as Diocesan Clergy Spiritual Director.

Cathedral leaders continue to serve in a number of capacities within the diocese. Dean Gibson and Christopher Powell both served on the 50th Anniversary Committee. Ron Snider serves as Treasurer of the Diocese, and as Chair of the Commission on Finance, Meg McGovern serves on the Commission for Episcopal Church Women. Laura Rutherford and Clayton Ryan serve on the board for Murray House. Cart Blackwell, Will Gamble, Stephen McNair and Bragg Van Antwerp serve on the Wilmer Hall board. Carl Cunningham, Jr. and Jubal Hamil serve on the Beckwith board. Jill Chow serves on the Diocesan Youth Ministry Leadership Team and the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. We are grateful for the members who serve on the Cathedral Chapter, The Rev. John Riggan, St. Paul's, Mobile, Hayden Tirey, St. John's, Monroeville, The Rev. Dee Freeman, St. James, Fairhope.

This report ended last year with these sentences, "Our true focus in the year ahead will be on the 'why' of our shared life that supports this 'how' — the Love of God that dwells within us and moves among and around us and draws us into deeper and richer lives of prayer and service." 2020 was not the year we had planned, but we did indeed work toward this goal.

As we continue to grow into our ministry as Cathedral, it remains a joy for us as we serve the diocese.

### **Cathedral Mission Statement**

*Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.*

### **Institution Statement for the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**

*The Cathedral is the spiritual center of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The Cathedral is a dynamic and evolving church that serves as a liturgical, educational, and pastoral center for Diocesan life. It serves as a visible symbol of unity and promotes growth, hope, and a deepening trust in the Lord. The Cathedral is a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be faithfully preached and responded to, and it will model new concepts and ideas for education, evangelism, and outreach to which the Gospel calls us.*

Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean  
Carolyn S. Jeffers, Provost

## **MISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT: EVANGELISM AND MISSION ENGAGEMENT**

The purpose of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast's Missional Office of Development is to develop God's power and love through congregations as they more fully extend their mission beyond the status quo. We do this primarily through Evangelism and Mission Engagement as integral aspects of living our Baptismal Covenant

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

and of our diocesan life and vision, recognizing that together, we are the body of Christ. The following describes just some of the signs of development in our life together for which we are grateful during our 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Anniversary year.

**Evangelism: Seeking. Naming. Celebrating. Inviting.** Even now, in the midst of a pandemic, the Holy Spirit enabled us to encourage 768 people and to develop \$11,203 in resources for the diocese to move ahead with the spiritual practice of evangelism during this past year.

- Spiritual practice of evangelism encouraged diocesan-wide in 2020 = 768 people
  - 2020 Evangelism Task force members met monthly for ongoing leadership development and for an annual retreat at the Tirey Cabin in Lillian (22)
  - During the diocesan-wide October 2020 Jubilee 50<sup>th</sup> Evangelism focus, convocational evangelism catalysts offered Storytelling Workshops to train diocesan leaders (both virtual and small group in-person in each convocation) and sponsored *Invite a Friend to More Sunday* on October 25, 2020 (32)
  - Exploring online evangelism during and after our Jubilee 50<sup>th</sup> Revival “Just Mercy, Just Jesus” using SimpleTexting tool to connect with online participants in real time during the Revival and follow up with invitations to Revival Round-Up, four weekly meetings to discussion and Go Forward Together on Zoom and to invite to Christmas virtual worship throughout the diocese (114 subscribers)
  - National Episcopal Prayer Hotline open during the Revival (trained 11 diocesan clergy, with 4 contacts during Revival)
  - Social media advertising to targeted population for “Just Mercy, Just Jesus” - over 25,000 people in diocesan zip codes viewed our advertisement to join and 187 of these new people (described as “Opens” because they are *not* church-goers but *are open* to conversation on faith and justice) indicated attending the Revival (187)
  - Local “Justice is Faith” Facebook page developed to follow up relationship development with Opens in the Central Gulf Coast - Connecting people in the Central Gulf Coast through stories and actions that transform this world with love and justice (356)
  - “Free Listening” pop-up opportunities in Mobile and Resilience in 2020 StorySharing Tree opportunities for spiritual practice of evangelism throughout Mobile hosted by the Rev. Lydia Johnson and the Mary Alice Mathison (42)
- New resources developed = \$11,203
  - Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of relational evangelism and congregational empowerment. The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison was trained in 2020 to be our in-house diocesan trainer for Invite Welcome Connect worships and congregational training with fee covered by a Beecken Center Lilly Endowment grant (\$2,500).
  - Episcopal Evangelism Grants were submitted and awarded to the Rev. John Talbert for *Free Grace/Living Water* Evangelism Project (\$4,500) and to the Rev. Mary Alice Mathison for *Easter in the Wild* Evangelism Project (\$1,353)
  - TryTank investments in diocesan evangelism experiments: Prayer hotline (\$250), social media advertising for Revival (\$1,100) and following up with them through new diocesan Facebook page (\$1,500)

**Mission Engagement: Joining God in the Neighborhood.** Even now, in the midst of a pandemic, the Holy Spirit was at work in the church and the world to offer expanding missional engagement opportunities for over 614 people and develop \$138,579 in new resources for the diocese going forward.

- Leadership development for expanding mission engagement = 614 people

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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- Lay worship leader and preaching team from among 21 of the smaller diocesan congregations with a combined average worship attendance of 561 people developed a weekly Sunday Morning Prayer community throughout the diocese meeting via audio and video conference during the coronavirus crisis in order to see each other's faces and hear and respond to each other's voices in "real time" as another expression of the real presence of God's love among from March 22, 2020 until present (36)
- The Beloved Community Outreach Center of Mobile has grown out of the work of the DataStory for Faith Communities Diocesan Missional Strategic Plan (10)
- Freeport Way of Love mission enterprise zone teamwork continues with leadership from Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach, St. Jude's, Niceville, and St. Agatha's, De Funiak Springs (20)
- Between the Bridges Panama City shared ministry team and missional enterprise zone teamwork development of a shared ministry covenant for going forward together (50) and [A New Day](#) community transitional resource center launched (150)
- Scholar Champions enabled launch of Central Gulf Coast Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® 2020 summer program which resulted in an average increase of nine months in instructional reading levels, with all children (100%) maintaining or gaining in instructional reading levels and experiencing no summer learning loss (140)
- Diocesan Episcopal leaders participated in the Justice United Seeking Transformation in Pensacola (J.U.S.T. Pensacola) Nehemiah Action of over 700 people of faith assembling virtually to reduce unnecessary arrests and increase early learning opportunities for at risk children in Escambia county (174)
- Supporting 57 of 61 diocesan worshipping communities participating in the U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey, Discover Your Strengths and began follow up for Revisioning and Renewal work to develop the seven marks of vitality with two congregations in Apalachicola and Monroeville (16)
- Development for offering congregational teams a two-year program in courageous, resilient, and faithful leadership for the sake of the world through Excellence in Leadership project (5)
- Teamwork exploring potential New Episcopal Community in Pace with Holy Cross in Pensacola, St. Christopher's in Pensacola, and St. Mary's in Milton (7)
- Development of leadership to explore launch of an Episcopal Service Corps program in the Central Gulf Coast (6)
- Note: Baptized for Life teamwork of Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Christ Church Cathedral and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church shifted to being part of the Missional Office of Discipleship, with the Rev. Dr. Joy Blaylock as their diocesan sponsor (*see Discipleship report for update*)
- New resources developed = \$138,579
  - Beloved Community Outreach Center of Mobile United Thank Offering (UTO) grant - 2020 BLESS (\$50,000)
  - New Episcopal Communities/Mission Enterprise Zone Seed Grant for Community Outreach Center of Mobile (\$30,000)
  - Central Gulf Coast Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program (\$58,579)

Each one of those numbers above represents people and stories for which I am honored to share with the Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson, our next diocesan Missioner for Development. I am confident in our future as we go forward in our life together with her leadership and that of our Bishop and diocesan staff as more and more of God's people in the Central Gulf Coast discern the fresh expressions of our faith to which God is calling us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Kammy Young, 2018-2020 Canon Missioner for Development

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### MISSIONER FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Given the unprecedented nature of the year 2020, I submit this report acknowledging that much of what we hoped for either changed or had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the destruction wrought by Hurricane Sally in many areas of the diocese.

The highlights from this year include the following:

- Coordination with the Bishop to implement and expand The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast School's provision of educational offerings for the formation of deacons, priests and lay persons. We successfully crafted three new avenues of education for lay persons to be certified as Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Preachers, and Lay Pastoral Care Providers. Such classes and curriculum are currently providing the necessary framework to better equip lay leaders in a variety of settings. The three main instructors in this endeavor are the Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick, the Rev. Joy H. Blaylock, Ph.D, and the Rev. Deacon Clelia Garrity.
- Attendance and preacher at the diaconal ordinations for the first eight graduates of our local School for Ministry. Continued collaboration with the Rev. Deacon Clelia Garrity on the curriculum and start of the first year of studies for two diaconal candidates along with ongoing evaluation of those seeking the Lay Pastoral Care certificate.
- Oversight of diocesan formation events: presentation at our annual clergy conference in January about the real challenges of discipleship. Planned for the annual Discipleship Day that was scheduled to include Dr. Lisa Kimball of Virginia Theological Seminary and a special focus on our Baptized for Life congregations, i.e., deeper discussions of our baptismal identity. Unfortunately, this day had to be cancelled due to the arrival of Hurricane Sally in many of the areas of the diocese and the subsequent cleanup and restoration that was required. Other formative events included: listening sessions regarding racial reconciliation and a consideration of response by St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church; provision of resources regarding sabbath and mental health challenges.
- Consultation: led conversations with clergy about wellness during the pandemic and began training for the provision of mutual ministry reviews as needed. Attended VTS seminars on the reimagining of Formation. As Dean of The School for Ministry, I continued to meet with many students or inquirers who are considering a call to one or more of the various avenues we are offering. I also met with the Rev. Kammy Young and Mr. Ben Linder regarding the possibility of an Episcopal Service Corps in our diocese. I served on the board of directors for the first Freedom School in Pensacola and support the JUST Pensacola social justice initiative. I consulted with Bishop Kendrick on significant develops in society and sought to be of service regarding the provision of resources and ways to address events in a helpful way.
- Curriculum & Resource Development:
  - After a long-extended consultation period with Ministry Architects, a rough-draft Confirmation curriculum was produced and we have scheduled further exploration of how best to introduce this resource to our diocese. A committee was formed to discuss the importance of Confirmation and to reinvigorate clergy commitment to the priority of formation in parishes just prior to the renewal of clergy vows.
  - I attended the first Jesus 2020 umbrella seminar in Atlanta, GA, where we explored ministry, evangelism, education, and justice issues for several days with dynamic speakers like Bishop Curry, the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, and many leaders and publishers in the Episcopal Church.



## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

I also attended the Atlanta revival with Bishop Curry and Bishop Rob Wright. Such events served to help us stay connected as a diocese and to be open to the creative and imaginative ministry offerings of others throughout our nation.

- In an effort to assist smaller congregations in transition, I solicited a group of priests who would be willing to provide sermons for congregations without a regular minister. Similarly, I created a Discipleship Commission made up of lay leaders and ministers in our diocese who will help to shape the future of our Lay School for Ministry and other discipleship initiatives.
- Jubilee Revival Year:
  - I served on the committee for planning our revival in December of 2020 and beyond. Again, the pandemic changed our initial planning and thoughts and we prepared for an online revival.
  - I served on the Discipleship Committee and helped in the provision of resources for Discipleship month and Sabbath/Mental Health month for the toolkit for parishes.
  - I also collaborated with the Bishop, Jenn Johnson, and others to provide a 50 day devotion count-down to our revival with weekly themes and devotions aimed at preparing us for the “Just Jesus/Just Mercy” revival with Bishop Curry and Bryan Stevenson in December.
  - I also then participated with the Rev. Kammy Young in the “Go Forward” groups which were created after the revival as a way of continuing the conversation. We are still mining those interactions for ways in which we might further the idea of “Going Forward” as a diocese situated in a fractured society.
- As the Rev. Kammy Young prepared to retire, I took over the lead with the Baptized for Life program and Congregational Vitality connections and future. I began with consultations for the future of these programs with their respective leaders and helped to discern the way they can remain vital in our diocese. I remain grateful for all the congregations who are exercising resilience and determination in their chosen projects with the Baptized for Life Program even though the pandemic has put a considerable strain on moving forward.

Like many of us who crossed the threshold of 2021, with great hope for a relief from the perils wrought by a raging pandemic along with the contentious election of November 2020, I remain committed to holding our lament, longing and hope side by side. We cannot abandon our commitment to love, respect, dignity, unity, justice, and spiritual growth in spite of all we have endured. As we seek to find a common language again, I pray we can return to the wisdom of Philippians 4:8—

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. Joy H. Blaylock, Ph.D, Dean, The DCGC School for Ministry and Missioner for Discipleship

## REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS

### AFFIRMATIVE AGING

The Commission met during January and February of 2020 to prepare for two workshops on dementia, “The Silver Tsunami.” The first of these workshops was presented on February 7, 2020 at St. James’ Episcopal

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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Church in Fairhope, AL and the second on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at St. Agatha's Episcopal Church in DeFuniak Springs, FL. The workshops were attended, evaluated, and offered 4 CEU credits for clergy and health care providers.

With the advent of COVID-19 in our diocese, the Commission did not meet in person after that time, but communicated via email and phone conversations.

We paid tribute in the Coastline to our deceased and much missed member, the Rev. Deacon Ann Johnson. A future workshop on "Adventurous Aging: Staying young at Heart" is planned for the future, hopefully in the fall of 2021. Our plans include making this workshop experiential and interactive as well as educational.

The Commission offers the following thoughts:

"It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old; they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams." Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"No one can avoid aging. But aging productively is something else." C.S. Lewis, Nov. 29, 1898-Nov. 22, 1963.

"I'm young at heart. I'm young in spirit, and I'm still adventurous." Sonia Sotomayor

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Sara D. Phillips, Chair

### CURSILLO

The Cursillo ministry has been somewhat on hold due to the pandemic. However, we have done a few things to try and keep the movement alive.

1. We have had to cancel the weekends this year due to the pandemic. Cursillo is such an intimate weekend we have been unable to figure out how to create a similar experience with social distance. We are very committed to the Cursillo process and sharing a similar experience to each Pilgrim.
2. We have offered 2 virtual Zoom Ultreya's which many have signed on to and shared thoughts and feeling with one another. We have plans to offer this again soon and to try to develop some sort of schedule for consistency.
3. The Cursillo community offered support with approximately 50 people with manpower to help clean up at Camp Beckwith after the Hurricane damage.
4. This year Cursillo honored the monetary sponsorship commitment to the Saturday night diner and party at BayLights. Even though the event was not held the contribution was honored. The Cursillo community values our relationship with Beckwith and tries to help whenever possible!
5. We for the first time awarded two Mark Wilson Scholarships to first-year seminarian to Stephen Pecot and Jen Leahey. We are proud of them and their commitment and contributions to Cursillo movement and we look forward to their return to our diocese.

We pray we will as a proven successful Christian movement be able to gather and once again spread the Love of Christ soon! 2020 has certainly had its challenges in our lives and the Cursillo movement has been no exception. We are looking ahead and hope to a bright future as soon as it is safe to do so!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lori Bates, Chair

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### GLOBAL MISSION ENGAGEMENT

In 2019 the Commission made significant strides in carrying out its commitment to change its' philosophical approach to mission ministry. Instead of sponsoring mission trips that are singular in nature the Commission's focus was aimed at mission engagement that will aid local citizenry become self-sustaining in providing their own medical care, potable water, church support, education programs, salaries for teachers, and training in vocational skills. We invite you to look at our report to the February 2020 Convention to see the scope of this global ministry.

We had plans to continue this trend in 2020, however, COVID-19 altered those plans as it did those of so many. This report will therefore be focused on the aspects of this ministry we had planned, what we had to postpone, what we were actually able to accomplish, and what we hope to accomplish in 2021.

We hope that 2020 proves to be merely a pause in our ministry and that in 2021 we will make progress in getting back on track.

#### **I. Baluba, Zambia, Africa:**

1. In 2019 we assisted with an exploratory trip to Baluba, Zambia (translated "lost community"). On the continent of Africa, Baluba was found to be a remote village with no electricity, no potable water, no sanitation facilities, and no access to basic medical needs. Many of the locals practiced witchcraft and had never heard of Jesus Christ. The local people, however had an eagerness to learn. We also learned that the community and surrounding area consisted of 70 tribes who spoke 18 dialects, and that there are multiple resources, including the Zambian Ministry of Health, with which we can partner on this project.

We decided it would be feasible to work with the Baluba community and existing resources to partner in the development of a project that includes sex education, primary health care, health education, midwifery, sanitation facilities, a small pharmacy to dispense "over-the-counter" medications, a source of potable water, and to raise up local leaders. Our principal contact was to be a local minister, Victor Chimfwembe.

#### **2. Ongoing Ministry Established in Zambia:**

Although a 2020 follow up trip to Baluba had to be canceled due to COVID to date we have undertaken the following in furtherance of our commitment to accept the community of Baluba and its' surrounding area as a mission project:

- a. Helped in the establishment of a medication formulary for Baluba and its' surrounding area and the establishment of a pharmacy to dispense medications and for the building of a storage building for the medicines.
- b. Committed funds from our Diocesan budget to provide non-prescription over-the-counter medication for the community of Baluba and surrounding area for two months.
- c. Worked with others to raise funds necessary to provide medication for a year to the area of Baluba and surrounding area.
- d. Made a commitment to help raise a team of medical professionals with a dermatologist, an OBGYN MD and nurses to travel to Baluba and hold medical clinics in late June 2020. Unfortunately this has been postponed due to COVID-19.
- e. Worked toward having a trained nurse go to Baluba one day each month once the pharmacy was operational.
- f. Committed funds from our Diocesan budget to provide a full tuition scholarship of \$1500 per year to a Zambian woman, Raechel Chimfwembe, the wife of the Baluba's pastor, to attend a local accredited

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

nursing school to obtain a bachelor of science degree in nursing including midwifery. In return she has made the commitment that upon graduation she will provide nursing and midwife services to the Baluba and surrounding area free of charge. She will also be responsible for all incidental costs of attending school and obtaining her education.

**This scholarship of \$1500 per year was continued for 2020 and has been renewed for 2021.**

- g. From our Diocesan budget we agreed to contribute toward the expenses to make it possible for Victor Chimfwembe, the Baluba pastor, to travel from Zambia to our Diocese with a view to his speaking at various churches to explain the conditions in Baluba, our involvement there and generate interest for support of his and our ministry there. Victor is our local contact in Zambia and is committed to this ministry.

**This was in fact accomplished and Victor came to the USA in February 2020 and met with our Commission and other groups to give firsthand insight into the people of Baluba and his (and our) work there.**

- h. With funds provided by Bishop Russell Victor was successful in finishing a building in Baluba for storing the medicines and for use as a birthing clinic and to contract with the Zambian Ministry of Health to provide medical and technical assistance.
  - i. With our assistance Baluba now has storage for pharmaceuticals, a refrigerator and freezer and a generator powered by solar power, funding necessary for the government to send training, and to have monthly clinics containing health education.
  - ii. We funded additional medical clinics not covered by the Zambian government
- i. The Commission approved a grant of \$500 to cover expenses for Baluba to have running water for its' new birthing suite.

### 3. Our Expectations for Mission Ministry in Zambia for 2021:

Assuming the Convention approves our budget request the Commission expects to fulfill its commitment to the 70 tribes in the Baluba and surrounding area to do the following:

- a. Continue to provide the nursing/midwife tuition scholarship so long as Raechel fulfills her commitment to maintain a good academic standing and personally obtain other sources for all expenses incidental to her schooling.
- b. In addition to our financial support for the pharmacy we will work to obtain funding to continue to supply medications for the pharmacy established in Zambia for the entire year.
- c. Work with local government officials to identify and help implement available government programs to help the people in this impoverished area.
- d. Continue to support all aspects of our ministry outlined above and seek ways to aid the Baluba community to become self-sufficient in these matters.

## **II. Education Mission Ministry to the Dominican Republic –College Scholarships, Professional Workshops, Four Year Episcopal College:**

Since 2017 we have sponsored a team of doctorate level educators from Mobile, our partners from the University of Monterey, Mexico and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln where this team organized, wrote the curriculum for and then lead a program of professional workshops and retreats for the teachers, clergy and administrators in the Episcopal parochial schools throughout the Dominican Republic.

Prior to COVID-19 the Episcopal parochial school system in the Dominican Republic consisted of 26 schools and approximately 6,400 students. These workshops and retreats were prepared based on the express needs of the teachers and administrators and are aimed at helping them become better teachers and educators.

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Dominican Bishop Moises has stated that in his travels around the diocese he is convinced that “improvement is happening in a major way (in the school system)” and our team “has made considerable contributions to these changes”.

For 2020 our goal had been to continue support this Education Ministry. Unfortunately, COVID-19 travel restrictions made this impossible and as this ministry requires that our team be present in the DR these activities had to be postponed.

### **For 2021 our goal for this Education Ministry is to:**

1. Write and staff at least one additional week of workshops/retreats for teachers, administrators and clergy in the Dominican Republic Episcopal School system in the fall.
2. Our discussions with Dominican Bishop Moises to establish a vocational school in the DR evolved into Bishop Moises desiring to establish an Episcopal four-year college. We will work with the Dominican Diocese and other professional educators in an effort to lay the groundwork for this to become a reality.
3. Continue with the official formal relationship between the Episcopal schools in the Dominican Republic and the University of South Alabama whereby the University will offer scholarships to graduates of the Dominican Episcopal schools. The memorandum of agreement was officially signed in a ceremony during our December 2019 mission visit to the DR.
4. In 2019 we approved a grant of \$1200 from our Diocesan budget to purchase 2 computers (out of a need for 4) for use in “pilot” programs for the Dominican Episcopal schools to explore (with our team’s guidance) the use of today’s technology in the classroom.
5. We challenged Missionary Dr. Tom McGowan and the University of Nebraska team members to match our grant of two computers and they accepted the challenge so that the need for 4 computers for this pilot program was met.
6. Travel conditions permitting we hope to include computer-in-education workshops for the DR teachers and administrators in 2021.
7. We have made a commitment to continue to support this ministry throughout 2021.

### **III. Construction of Church Furniture for the Episcopal Churches in the Dominican Republic:**

Since 2006 we have sponsored annual construction missions to the Dominican Republic. Our mission team has built all of the church furniture necessary for an empty room to become a comfortable, attractive and functional house of worship. Our team typically builds 20 to 26 pews along with clergy chairs, a bishop’s chair, acolyte benches, an altar, pulpit, lectern, baptismal font, credence table and bookcases each year.

During this time our team has earned the reputation of building durable and attractive church furniture and our furniture is in high demand.

In March 2019 we sponsored our 16<sup>th</sup> such Construction Mission and built furniture for Iglesia Santisma Trinidad (church of the Holy Trinity) in Santo Domingo.

Our 17<sup>th</sup> construction mission that was planned for March 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Depending on COVID-19 and/or travel conditions we plan to resume this church furniture mission later in 2021 or, if not then, certainly in 2022 and have been asked to build the furniture necessary to convert a room in the Dominican Diocesan office into a chapel.

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### **IV. Haiti: Potable Water, Nursing, Medical Care, Education:**

In 2019 we concluded our 3-year commitment to help the village of Martel, Haiti become self-sufficient in providing medical care, education in areas of community health and personal hygiene, and maintaining a sustainable source of potable water.

Unfortunately, even before COVID-19, the discord of Haiti's national government has made it impossible for us to safely return to Haiti but our local contacts have reported that programs we helped put in place are still serving the community.

### **V. Mission to Meaningfully Minister to Refugees at Our Border**

1. In a series of discussions, the Commission considered the challenges faced by those seeking asylum in the United States and the backlog of individuals and families at our Mexican border as a result of the newly enacted Migration Protection Policy (MPP), also known as the Remain in Mexico program.
2. We participated in sponsoring a "fact finding" trip to the border in early August 2019 in order to see firsthand what was happening there and to be better informed as to how we could become meaningfully involved in a Christian way.
3. Upon receiving a report from the "fact finding" group we met with Bishop Russell and accepted his suggestion that the Diocese form a Coalition Task Force to Address the Border Crisis and that such Task Force be organized under the umbrella of the Commission on Global Mission Engagement.
4. In September 2019 an organizational meeting was held for this Task Force and was attended by fifteen individuals representing nine congregations from throughout the Diocese.
5. Following this organizational meeting the Task Force has sponsored a second team of 13 individuals to the US-Mexican Border.
6. **In mid-February 2020 a third team of 16 individuals traveled to the US/Mexican border.** While there they were engaged in the following:
  - a. Preparation and serving of approximately one thousand meals per day to those awaiting their Immigration Court Dates.
  - b. Distributed several hundred Spanish language New Testament Bibles.
  - c. The team returned home committed to this boarder ministry and the displaced people it serves.
  - d. **The team met with the newly created Task Force and 14 individuals had signed up for a fourth trip to the US/Mexican border for later in 2020. This fourth trip was to include youth as well as adults and also participants from the Dioceses of Mississippi and Alabama as well as the Central Gulf Coast. Unfortunately, the fourth trip was cancelled due to COVID-19.**
7. In 2021 we plan to monitor conditions at the border and to evaluate human conditions as they may exist as there is some belief that a change in US administrations may have an effect on mission needs there.

### **VII. Summer of 2021 – Youth Mission Trip:**

Youth missions for 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. In 2021 the Commission will continue to work with the Diocesan Youth Commission with the hope of having missions that involve our young churchmen.

### **VIII. 2021 – Potable Water for Iglesia San Marcos, Haina, Dominican Republic:**

In 2021 we plan to maintain contact with the church and school system at San Marcos de Haina, Dominican Republic, to confirm the fresh water well and osmosis water purification system we previously installed were still functioning and providing the church and school of approximately 900 students with potable water. We will undertake to insure such repairs and/or maintenance as may be indicated.

### **XIV. Throughout 2021 – “Home Team and Go Team”:**

We plan to continue with our program of having a “Home Team” and a “Go Team” for our mission ministries. The “Go Team” being the individual missionaries actually going on the trips. The “Home Team” being the people at home who pray for the mission and help with financial support. Home Team support is essential for our mission ministries to be successful.

### **XV. Throughout 2021 – Within Our Diocese:**

We plan to continue ongoing efforts to learn of mission work being done by congregations throughout the Diocese and to offer the Commission’s help and support.

### **XVI. Looking Forward to 2021:**

Although most of our global ministries had to be postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 we consider that they were “postponed” and not discontinued. We also consider that many of the above ministries are ongoing and will continue into 2021 to the extent COVID-19 and travel restrictions will allow.

The Commission has a commitment to not only continue with these ministries to conclusion but also to actively seek out new opportunities in the ministry of global mission engagement.

The Commission stresses that the mission ministries sponsored by the Commission are open to all adult communicants of the Diocese and that an ability to speak a foreign language is not necessary in order to be a contributing member of these mission ministries.

**In summary** the Commission on Global Mission Engagement is an active, involved, passionate, dedicated and hard-working Commission with a commitment to continue the expansion of our global mission ministry to the extent that prayer, manpower and finances will permit. We pray that we shall continue to be led by the Holy Spirit as this exciting ministry continues to unfold.

However, mission ministry cannot exist without the prayerful and financial support from the Diocese and the “Home Team.” We ask for your prayers as this exciting and rewarding ministry continues to grow and affect the lives of so many in need.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geary Gaston, Chair

## **PRISON MINISTRY**

Throughout 2020, the Commission on Prison Ministry continued its efforts to reach out to those who are incarcerated, support their families, increase awareness of reentry programs, and address the challenges in the prison systems of Alabama and Florida. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted these activities, and Commission members were limited in their ability to interact with inmates or family members. As with many other diocesan endeavors, the Prison Commission utilized Zoom for virtual meetings. While we miss the personal camaraderie, this has proven to be an effective method to conduct our meetings. A Prayer Request for the challenge of COVID-19 inside prisons was communicated to all church families. Our new Prison Commission webpage is now available through a link on the Commission’s site on the diocesan website, [www.diocgc.org/prison-ministry](http://www.diocgc.org/prison-ministry).

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The Commission continued to recognize the importance of reentry efforts, because inmates receive very little guidance, training, or resources to prepare them for life on the outside. We acknowledged that there is a major need to educate and assist our church families – and the general public – to understand and address this challenging aspect of our judicial system.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne E. Verry, Chair

### RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

On behalf of the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation (the “Commission”) of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast (“CGC”), we present the following information about our ministry’s activities over the past year. As a result of your prayerful, physical and fiscal support – and with God’s help- the holy work of racial reconciliation and healing is showing tremendous signs of engagement and progress in our Diocese.

We began the 2020 year with an invitation for a diocesan-wide book read of *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. This book read was scheduled in advance of his visit later in the year to the Central Gulf Coast’s 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Anniversary Celebration. We also created a downloadable study guide <https://tinyurl.com/yhnn5stg>. Many parishes and small groups formed throughout the diocese to read, learn, pray about and discuss the book.

Our first workshop of the year, Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations, was conducted on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Milton, FL.

During that same weekend, members of the Commission, along with parishioners participated in marches, attended speeches at various points around the Diocese to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which was Monday, January 20, 2020.

In February, the Commission, in collaboration with the Rev. Dr. Robert E. Dubose Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (the “DuBose Chapter of the UBE”), celebrated the Feast Day of Absalom Jones. The celebration took place on Saturday, February 15, 2020, at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Birmingham, AL.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2020, and on Wednesday, February 20, 2020, the Commission hosted an “Evening of Conversation with Mrs. Josephine Bolling McCall,” author of “The Penalty for Success: My Father Was Lynched in Lowndes County, AL” and the president of The Elmore Bolling Foundation. The events took place at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Pensacola, FL, and at St. James Episcopal Church, Fairhope, AL. The following day, after each presentation, the Commission welcomed the audience members for “Holy Grounds and Rounds” (coffee & donuts) conversations with Mrs. McCall. These events allowed for more personalized conversations with Mrs. McCall and discussions about what we heard the evening before, what it can mean for our community, and what are some next steps.

Our next workshop of Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations was on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Chapel, Magnolia Springs, AL.

On Sunday, March 1, 2020, Commission members and other parishioners from the Diocese of the CGC made a pilgrimage to Selma, AL. The pilgrimage was made to commemorate the anniversary of what is known as “Bloody Sunday.” (When about 600 people started a planned march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on



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Sunday March 7, 1965, it was called a demonstration. When state troopers met the demonstrators at the edge of the city by the Edmund Pettus Bridge, that day became known as "Bloody Sunday.")

The Commission then conducted the second of several pre-planned in-person speaker events, entitled "An Evening with the Rev. Nibs Stroupe," co-author of "Passionate for Justice-Ida B. Wells" on Friday, March 6, 2020 from 6pm-7:30pm. The event was held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Pensacola, FL. Then on the next morning, the Commission welcomed the audience members for "Holy Grounds and Rounds" (coffee & donuts) conversations with Rev. Stroupe. The event allowed for more personalized conversations with Rev. Stroupe and discussions about what we heard the evening before, what it can mean for our community, and what are some next steps.

It was at this point that the pandemic forced a shutdown of all in person gatherings in the diocese. Events that had been planned for the year and that were cancelled include:

- An Evening with Ms. Elizabeth Eckford, member of the Little Rock Nine, with Dr. Eurydice and Grace Stanley, co-authors of "The Worst First Day: Bullied While Desegregating Central High."
- Three separate planned pilgrimages to the Equal Justice Initiative National Memorial for Peace & Justice and Legacy Museum, which are located in Montgomery, AL.
- Five Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations workshops.
- Four in-person meetings of the Commission.
- A pilgrimage to The Whitney Plantation, which is located in Edgard, LA.
- In person participation in the Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community Summit, which was to be hosted by Diocese of Minnesota Twin Cities.
- In person attendance at The Union of Black Episcopalians Annual Conference, which was scheduled for Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 3, 2020 in Montgomery, AL.
- In person attendance at the Jonathan Myrick Daniels Pilgrimage, which was scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 2020 in Hayneville, AL.

The pandemic took an immediate toll on the work we had planned to do with the \$12,000 Becoming Beloved Community Grant that we were awarded. We proposed to partner with The DuBose Chapter of the UBE, Alabama Arise, and the Alabama Institute for Social Justice to introduce the Beloved Community curriculum to their constituent groups. This is made possible because one of the beauties of the Becoming Beloved Community curriculum is that it can be used as a platform for discussion among believers of many faith traditions and can also be modified for civic groups. Unfortunately, all our efforts at introduction were planned for in-person gatherings, which had to be abandoned because of the pandemic.

Not wanting to lose the momentum that was evident in the Commission's work, we pivoted our work to online virtual presentations. Thus, it began this process with a series of four speakers:

1. May 6th – Ms. Robyn Hyden - Alabama Arise  
Ms. Hyden is the Executive Director of Alabama Arise which is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of congregations, organizations, and individuals united in their belief that people in poverty are suffering because of state policy decisions. Through Arise, groups and individuals join together to promote policies to improve the lives of Alabamians with low incomes. Arise provides a structure in which Alabamians can engage in public debates to promote the common good. Arise accomplishes this through policy analysis, statewide organizing, and citizen advocacy.
2. May 20th – Ms. Carla Crowder - Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice  
Ms. Crowder directs the organization's policy advocacy agenda centered on the intersection of poverty and the criminal justice system. Appleseed's campaigns challenge policing for profit, laws that needlessly ensnare Alabamians in jails and prisons, and a court system funded on the backs of the poor.

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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3. June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dr. Carlos E Alemán - Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama  
¡HICA! is a community development and advocacy organization that champions economic equality, civic engagement, and social justice for Latino and immigrant families in Alabama. ¡HICA! envisions an Alabama in which everyone has full and equal participation in our state's civic, cultural, social, and economic life. Hispanic and immigrant families are empowered to integrate, engage, and lead their communities to reach their families' aspirations.
4. June 17<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Deacon Carolyn Foster - Poor People's Campaign  
The Rev. Deacon Foster is a leader of the Alabama Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, a movement that continues the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and works to dismantle the unjust systems of racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the war economy which adversely impact poor and low-income people.

However, the need for Commission's ministry was made more evident by the national racial re-awakening following the May 25, 2020 killing of George Floyd. The Commission needed to find a way to connect the Diocese to create a brave space for grieving, sacred conversation, and prayer, whose necessity was brought about by this visceral example of systematic racism playing out in the streets of America. In response, the Commission conducted a Virtual Diocesan Prayer Vigil for Racial Healing on June 19, 2020. This brave space included prayer, personal witness statements, sacred music and blessings. By all measures, the vigil brought people together in deep and meaningful ways.

In furtherance of its commitment to engage the diocese in its work and inspired by the words of the Presiding Bishop, the Commission compiled an extensive list of resources entitled "Learn | Pray | Act" to help us continue to:

- Learn - "Go and Learn what this means"
- Pray - "They devoted themselves to prayer"
- Act - Let your "yes" be "YES"

This extensive list includes titles of books, videos, interviews, and movies - all with brief annotations. This is another endeavor to encourage parishioners of the diocese to commit to being about the work of Becoming Beloved Community. The resource is available at: <https://www.diocgc.org/learn-pray-act>.

As earlier indicated, 2020 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the creation of the Episcopal Diocese of the CGC. To commemorate the 50th Jubilee Celebration, the month of August was designated with the theme: Justice and Reconciliation. Therefore, we invited Dr. Catherine Meeks, the executive director of the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing to conduct a three-part virtual presentation. The purpose of the series was to take a deeper dive into our "Learn-Pray-Act" commitment by exploring systemic, institutional, and personal racism, and learn what we can do to dismantle it. Breakout sessions for further conversations were facilitated by members of the Commission.

Using the four quadrants of the Becoming Beloved Community curriculum used by the Episcopal Church (Telling the Truth, Proclaiming the Dream, Practicing the Way and Repairing the Breach) the Commission continued in its long way to address exigent circumstances in our society.

The three sessions were led by Dr. Meeks on the following evenings:

1. August 12<sup>th</sup> – Truth Telling – We explored diocesan and local convening of public truth telling, confession and racial violence and oppression, and explored ways in which society, our church, and institutions have been complicit. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rm7lhRHZwck>

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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2. August 19<sup>th</sup> – Healing – We sought ways to accelerate local and regional efforts for reconciliation and healing, especially via anti-racism and racial healing and formation.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohUY0CsPEOA>
3. August 26<sup>th</sup> – Justice – We sought ways to equip local leaders with resources for racial justice action and repair, particularly focusing on reimagining policing, criminal justice reform, and the racially disparate impact of the pandemic on persons of color. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXR2I6P0Yi8>

The Diocese of the CGC ended its Jubilee Celebration with a “Just Mercy, Just Jesus Virtual Revival” with the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael B. Curry, and Bryan Stevenson, author of “Just Mercy” and the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. The event was held on Friday, December 4. It was a special celebration devoted to remembering who Jesus is for us, reorienting ourselves to mercy and renewing hope as we go forward. The event featured music, prayer, personal testimonies from people from around our diocese and featured meaningful conversation between the prophetic voices of Presiding Bishop Curry and Mr. Stevenson. By all metrics, it was a rousing success, as over 10,000 individuals, national and internationally tuned in for the presentation.

The following morning, Commission members served as facilitators to audience members for a virtual “Revival Roundup Coffee Hour” discussion. The goal was to engage the audience members in discussions about what they heard the evening before, what it can mean for our community, and what are some next steps.

Commission members have participated in virtual racial reconciliation workshops sponsored by both the Diocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Alabama in an attempt to acquire the necessary knowledge for smoothly transforming the Commission’s workshops from in-person gatherings to virtual ones. Our first virtual workshop is scheduled for January 16, 2021.

We have also scheduled, for the month of February 2021, an in-service training with Conversation Starters, a cultural competency and equity consultation firm that specializes in diversity and facilitation training. The 15 hours of training will occur over a three-week period and is broken into five-hour blocks. The goal of such training is to enhance the Commission members’ ability to engage courageously in difficult conversations, thereby further enabling their abilities to create inclusive spaces where authentic relationships can build, thereby laying the groundwork for sustainable change.

The Commission also plans to introduce the Dismantling Racism Youth Curriculum in the CGC sometime in 2021. A Commission member has participated in the required Youth Curriculum training that is a prerequisite to being able to use the curriculum. There are plans for other Commission members and CGC youth ministers to take the training, thereby expanding the reach of the youth curriculum within the CGC.

Plans for the first half of 2021 include nearly all virtual events, with the second half including a concentration of pilgrimages, in-person workshops and speaker series and the full use of the grant funding by the Presiding Bishop’s Advisory Committee on Implementing Becoming Beloved Community.

For more information go to <https://www.diocgc.org/racial-justice-and-reconciliation>, like our Facebook Page Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation, and check out Eventbrite.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe McDaniel, Jr. & Gary A. Moore, Co-Chairs

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### REPORTS OF THE DIOCESAN COORDINATORS

#### BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Report forthcoming

#### CHAPLAINS TO RETIRED CLERGY & CLERGY SPOUSES

COVID-19 restricted the ministry of the diocesan chaplains to the retired in 2020, making several events and outreach efforts of previous years either more difficult or impossible. The six chaplains continued to contact retirees on a one-to-one basis, sometimes in person, sometimes over the telephone, and sometimes through written notes.

Chaplains to the retired serve at the pleasure of the bishop. During 2020, they were the Rev. John and Ann Phillips, the Rev. Joe Hagberg, Ms. Sheila Campbell, and the Rev. Richard and Pamela Schmidt. The Schmidts serve as coordinators for the group.

"The Geezer Gazette" is an occasional newsletter for retirees of the diocese containing meditations, personal narratives, and opinion pieces on topics pertaining to retirement and aging, written by the retired clergy and clergy spouses of the diocese. Three issues were published in 2021.

Due to COVID-19, the annual luncheon for retirees, hosted by the bishop each fall, was not held, nor was the annual provincial meeting of chaplains from Province IV, usually held each spring. Informal luncheons for retirees and spouses, normally held six times a year at Baldwin House, a retirement facility in Spanish Fort, were also not held in 2020.

The chaplains hope that as the nation gets the pandemic under control and it is once again safe to gather in groups, ministries to and for the retired of the diocese can be resumed and expanded for 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Schmidt and Ms. Pamela H. Schmidt, Chaplains

#### DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Central Gulf Coast Diocesan Assembly of The Order of the Daughters of the King® currently has 215 members in 23 parish chapters, and 29 members called Daughters at Large who are in parishes without chapters. Early in 2020 an informational meeting about the Order took place at St. Paul's in Daphne, AL, and there is a chapter in formation there with 16 interested women.

Members of The Order undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating two Rules:

1. Rule of Prayer: praying daily for the extension of Christ's Kingdom, their clergy, the spiritual growth of their parish, needs brought to their attention, and for members of the Order;
2. Rule of Service: participating regularly in the worship, study and work of the Church, assisting their priests in the ministry of the Church, and bringing others to a knowledge and love of Christ.

The Central Gulf Coast Assembly meets twice a year in the spring and fall. Last spring's assembly took place in early March at St. James, Fairhope, immediately before the pandemic shutdown. The keynote speaker was

## **REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

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Krisita Jackson, the National President of the Order. Bishop Russell was the celebrant and homilist at the Eucharist.

Last fall the Assembly held a virtual Quiet Day led by the Rev. Donna Gerold who held a workshop titled “The Gifts of Imperfection,” based on the works of Brené Brown.

Diocesan Daughters organized and attended a prayer chapel during the Diocesan Annual Church Convention at Christ Church Cathedral in February, providing prayer support throughout the proceedings, both on site and electronically. This is traditionally an annual event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Moore, President

### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COORDINATOR**

Report forthcoming

### **ECUMENICAL OFFICER FOR ALABAMA AND FLORIDA**

Apart from nominal engagements in Mobile, Alabama, early in 2020, there is nothing further to report due to the COVID-19 deprivations and precautions this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Hagberg, Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for Florida  
Thomas Heard, Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer for Alabama

### **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)**

As with so many activities in our diocese this past year, Education for Ministry was severely curtailed in 2020. As the program is based upon small groups of people gathered to study and discuss Scripture, church history, theology and spirituality, the limitations placed on all of us in regards to in-person meetings has made this process difficult at best.

In January 2020, there were six active groups, with 47 participants and 11 active mentors. After COVID-19-related limits on gatherings began to take effect, most went to Zoom meetings, while others, unfortunately, saw participation drastically drop. There were seven participants who completed the four-year course and graduated in May.

With hope for improvements in COVID-19 numbers by September (the traditional starting point for EfM each year), each group planned to start again last fall. However, as we know, the numbers did not improve, and other plans were made. At least one group planned to start in January in hopes that the situation would improve by then (which it did not). Others attempted to continue with Zoom or similar online platforms.

Due to both COVID-19 and new software adopted by the University of the South (Sewanee), the statistics usually compiled by the EfM staff at Sewanee in November were not gathered, so the numbers reported here were gathered by contacting the known groups from the previous year. From these contacts, I can report that three groups are currently active (St. Andrew's, Panama City; Christ Church Parish, Pensacola; and St. Christopher's, Pensacola). There are 23 participants and four active mentors meeting via Zoom.

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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Mentors reported challenges in both retaining participants and recruiting new ones. Negative responses were primarily centered around virus concerns or not wanting to meet via Zoom. (One of the great benefits of EfM groups is developing new friendships during the weekly gatherings around a table or in a parish parlor.) On the positive side, most of the groups remained in touch, even if they were not having weekly group meetings. There were Zoom book clubs, periodic catching-up by text or emails, and even an ugly sweater party. There is also continued interest going forward. Many current and potential participants are anxiously awaiting the wide-spread availability of vaccines, when the restrictions on meeting in-person will hopefully be lifted.

There are also a number of new mentors who were trained at Beckwith Camp and Convention Center a year ago. At that event, 10 mentors from the diocese were either trained or recertified. At least another three mentors were trained elsewhere last year, before Sewanee closed down in-person training. Sewanee continues to offer online training. (Mentors, who lead each EfM group, must receive training at least every 18 months to maintain their certification).

The future is bright for Education for Ministry. There are many parish leaders and others across the diocese who want to offer EfM in their congregations. I am hopeful that by this time next year, our numbers will be even greater than they were this time last year.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. David M. Clothier, Coordinator

### **THE EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY**

Report forthcoming

### **EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT**

The 2020 year was a challenging year for Episcopal Relief & Development. The year started out with great promise. The One Thousand Days of Love campaign was hitting its stride in raising money for improving the lives of children up to age six. Data shows that these are very important years in the development of a person's life. Data also shows that those who receive assistance during this time are much less likely to need support in later life.

Also early in the year, time was spent informing people about the 2020 Lenten Meditations and Episcopal Relief Sunday. Lent was officially designated at the 2009 General Convention of The Episcopal Church as a time for dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. Although the first Sunday in Lent is the official day of observance, churches may hold a special service on any Sunday. Liturgical resources to help congregations observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday are available at [episcopalrelief.org/sunday](https://episcopalrelief.org/sunday).

In March of last year, Episcopal Relief & Development representatives began to cease visitation to all parishes and diocesan conventions all across the country. While visits stopped the needs did not. The organization responded to those in need due to COVID-19 and to those affected by natural disasters. Go to [2020 PRESS RELEASES](#) to see some activities during 2020.

As things begin to return to normal in 2021 and 2022 Episcopal Relief & Development will again be more engaged parishes around the diocese and across the country.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eugene Johnston, Coordinator

## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### MEN'S CONFERENCE

Fifty-one men from 19 parishes of the Central Gulf Coast, plus two visitors from other Episcopal dioceses, enjoyed learning, prayer and fellowship at the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Men's Conference. The Very Rev. Ian Markham, dean of the Virginia Seminary, led the discussion on "Politics and Religion: Can Christians Still Render Unto Caesar?" Under Dr. Markham's skillful direction, the group explored such controversial topics as immigration, gun control, and capitalism and concluded by discovering how Christian civility can be a means of bridging honest differences. Of course, the conference was not all work, as the participants enjoyed their annual oyster shuck, a delicious outdoor fish fry, and great singing led by the able Charlie Roose. Worship included the Saturday night candlelight Taizé service and the final Sunday Eucharist officiated by Dr. Markham.

At the Eucharist a generous offering was raised for the VTS capital fund drive, and Dr. Markham said the conference would be honored in the seminary roles as a donor.

The pandemic has led to the postponement 2021 conference until September 17, 18 and 19 when Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, executive director of the Forward Movement, will lead a discussion of his book "Walk in Love." The fall should be a beautiful time to meet at Beckwith and renew old friendships and meet new friends from all over our diocese. Men, mark it on your calendar, come and by part of our 40<sup>th</sup> conference...and enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Hooper, Coordinator

### UNITED THANK OFFERING REPORT

This past year has been a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic is still creating substantial health and financial concerns all around the world. In order to respond to this crisis, The United Thank Offering deferred our planned 2021 grant focus of creation care to COVID-19 response. We will continue with the creation care focus for the 2022 granting cycle.

The good news is our diocese received its' 26<sup>th</sup> UTO grant in 2020. The grant for \$50,000 is supporting a missionary to coordinate the congregations in the Mobile area to strengthen our evangelism efforts. I believe this important position will result in bringing new people into the Christian life and I look forward to seeing the fruits of this project.

The total ingathering for our diocese is down significantly. The total 2020 ingathering was \$6,818.27 and 2019 was \$12,861.12. I know that we have all suffered financial challenges this year. A significant decrease in in-person worship has hurt our efforts to hold ingatherings. As in all difficult times, we need to find new ways to continue conducting our business. Anyone can send in a check to the address found on the boxes and our website.

UTO

DFMS

PO Box 958983

St. Louis, Mo 63195-8983

You can also donate online at: <mailto:https://unitedthankoffering.com/give/>



## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

As always, you will receive an IRS approved confirmation of your donation. You can also donate in honor or memory of someone and you can opt to have a note sent to that person informing them of your contribution. You will be asked to list our diocese and your parish so that they will receive credit for your gift.

It is more important than ever for us to practice thankfulness every day. If you cannot add money to your box at this time, write your prayers of thanksgiving on a slip of paper and place those in your blue box. The important thing to remember is to live a grateful life.

The ingathering information is:

St. Matthew's	Chipley, Fl	\$274.10
Christ Cathedral	Mobile, Al	\$506.09
Holy Trinity	Pensacola, FL	\$68.63
St. Patrick's	Panama City, Fl	\$118.96
St. Paul's	Daphne, Al	\$141.91
Christ Church	Pensacola, Fl	\$200.00
St. John's	Mobile, Al	\$18.94
St. Jude's	Niceville, Al	\$428.55
St. Thomas	Greenville, Al	\$301.50
St. Mary's	Coden, Al	\$587.09
St. Marks's	Troy, Al	\$100.00
St. James	Port St. Joe, Fl	\$466.65
St. James	Fairhope, Al	\$271.82
St. Augustine's	Navarre, Al	\$128.50
St. Francis of Assisi	Gulf Breeze, Fl	\$700.48
St. Monica's	Cantonment, Fl	\$10.05
St. Paul's	Mobile, Al	\$2400.00
Misc individual donors		\$95.00

If you or your congregation needs any assistance with ordering materials, hosting an ingathering or writing an application do not hesitate to contact me at [jlanderscgc@gmail.com](mailto:jlanderscgc@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Landers, Diocesan UTO Coordinator and UTO Vice President

### YOUTH MINISTRY

In December of 2019, Rachel Gilliam stepped in to head up the Committee. We began holding monthly meetings in January of 2020.

In February of 2020, the Youth Ministry Committee hosted the Convention Youth Lock-In at St. Luke's in Mobile, AL. We had 16 youth attend the lock-in.

In March, we ceased our in-person meetings and continued via Zoom. Most of what we had calendared out back in January ended up being cancelled, including Worship on the Water.

In April, the Youth Ministry Committee released a resource guide for Youth Ministers, providing creative options for engaging youth virtually during lock-down.



## REPORTS TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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In September, the Committee consulted on the Confirmation Curriculum that Ministry Architects has been working on for the Diocese.

The Committee put together a video of youth around the Diocese reading the different parts of an Evening Prayer service that was published on Facebook Live in October as “Pizza and Prayer.”

We attempted to host a virtual Tacky Christmas Sweater Sing-A-Long in December for youth groups to participate in, but we did not have anyone register, so we had to cancel that.

2020 was obviously a hard year for so many. Plans were thwarted and events were cancelled. The youth, especially, were robbed of many things in the past year. With Zoom being the only safe option, Zoom fatigue soon became a real issue that the Youth Ministry Committee was very aware of. With the inability to meet safely in person, and the popularity of Zoom activities waning, our hope was to be a resource to Youth Ministers, as well as provide virtual engagement to youth diocesan-wide. As we turn to 2021, and the pandemic still not under control, we are turning our focus to connecting local churches, and resourcing parishes who are going to have to rebuild their youth programs once in-person programming may resume diocesan-wide.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rachel Gilliam, Coordinator

## DIOCESAN BUDGET FOR 2020 AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2021

	Budget 2020	Actual Year End 2020	2021 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2021 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
<b>INCOME</b>				
Parishes and Missions	1,286,250	1,276,231	1,182,000	1,182,000
Parishes/Missions (Restricted)				
<b>Total Parishes and Missions</b>	<b>1,286,250</b>	<b>1,276,231</b>	<b>1,182,000</b>	<b>1,182,000</b>
CLF Interest Income	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Hicks Trust	13,500	11,306	12,000	12,000
McMaster Fund	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Quigley Fund	35,000	35,000	40,000	40,000
Workers Comp Credit	2,100	0	2,100	2,100
Vocations in Ministry (FTV)	30,000	30,000	35,000	35,000
New Church Development Funds (FTV)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Duvall Center Fund	29,000	0	50,000	50,000
Misc. Funds Transfer	4,000	0	4,000	4,000
Other (Misc.) Income	3,500	1,836	1,835	1,835
<b>Total Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 165,100</b>	<b>\$ 126,142</b>	<b>\$ 192,935</b>	<b>\$ 192,935</b>

<b>TOTAL ALL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,451,350</b>	<b>\$ 1,402,373</b>	<b>\$ 1,374,935</b>	<b>\$ 1,374,935</b>
	Budget 2020	Actual Year End 2020	2021 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2021 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
<b>DISCERNMENT</b>				
Seminarians	\$ 15,000	\$ 28,250	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
Commission on Ministry	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,445	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Commissions/Committees	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,779	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Dom. & For. Missionary Soc. (TEC)	\$ 166,682	\$ 166,682	\$ 166,682	\$ 166,682
Mission Engagement (World Mission)	\$ 11,000	\$ 5,200	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Grace/St. Thomas Mission Program	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,017	\$ -	\$ -
Canon to the Ordinary	\$ 36,000	\$ 21,204	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000

## DIOCESAN BUDGET FOR 2020 AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2021

TOTAL Disc. Program	\$255,682	\$233,577	\$261,182	\$261,182
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	Budget 2020	Actual Year End 2020	2021 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2021 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b>				
Beckwith Camp & Conference	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000
Wilmer Hall	\$ 76,000	\$ 76,000	\$ 76,000	\$ 76,000
Murray House	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Spiritual Direction Program	\$ 9,000	\$ 11,587	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Youth Ministries & Programs	\$ 35,000	\$ 20,922	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Campus Ministry / Young Adults	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Dicipleship Programming	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Racial Justice & Reconciliation Comm.	\$ 11,420	\$ 5,734	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
School for Ministry (operations)	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,018	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
School for Ministry - Dean	\$ 27,500	\$ 22,645	\$ 27,500	\$ 27,500
Missioner for Discipleship	\$ 47,016	\$ 31,594	\$ 47,016	\$ 47,016
Congregational Enrichment Venture		\$ -		
<b>TOTAL Discpl. Program</b>	<b>\$351,936</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>	<b>\$342,516</b>	<b>\$342,516</b>

	Budget 2020	Actual Year End 2020	2021 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2021 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>				
EFM/TENS memberships	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750	\$ -	\$ -
Canon for Development	\$ 39,500	\$ 38,276	\$ 18,500	\$ 18,500
Development Programming	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,408	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Clergy Conferences/Study Day	\$ 8,500	\$ 9,026	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Sewanee - Univ. of the South	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Deputies to General Convention	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Deputies to Triennial	\$ 3,200	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Deputies to Synod	\$ 2,800	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Province IV Quota	\$ 2,275	\$ 2,233	\$ -	\$ -
Lambeth Conference	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Communications Support	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,638	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Diocesan Convention	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,908	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Journal of the Convention	\$ 1,800	\$ 745	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000

### DIOCESAN BUDGET FOR 2020 AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2021

Support for Retirees	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,120	\$ 16,120	\$ 16,120
Liability Insurance (for congregations)	\$ 15,200	\$ 15,953	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Diocesan Bond	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,290	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400
<b>TOTAL Dev. Program</b>	<b>\$134,825</b>	<b>\$123,347</b>	<b>\$83,020</b>	<b>\$83,020</b>

	Budget 2020	Actual Year End 2020	2021 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2021 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
<b>OFFICE / ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
Bishop - Salary	\$ 144,799	\$ 125,569	\$ 144,799	\$ 144,799
Pension	\$ 26,064	\$ 26,064	\$ 26,064	\$ 26,064
Bishop - Travel	\$ 17,000	\$ 5,968	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000
Administrator - Salary	\$ 91,800	\$ 74,669	\$ 91,800	\$ 91,800
Pension	\$ 13,770	\$ 13,770	\$ 13,770	\$ 13,770
Financial Secretary - Salary	\$ 49,484	\$ 41,186	\$ 49,484	\$ 49,484
Pension	\$ 7,423	\$ 7,423	\$ 7,423	\$ 7,423
Bishop's Secretary - Salary	\$ 51,072	\$ 42,594	\$ 51,072	\$ 51,072
Pension	\$ 7,661	\$ 7,661	\$ 7,661	\$ 7,661
Communications Missioner	\$ 51,752	\$ 43,462	\$ 51,752	\$ 51,752
Pension	\$ 7,763	\$ 7,763	\$ 7,763	\$ 7,763
Admin Support	\$ 13,500	\$ 7,515	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security/Medicare	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,118	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500
Medical & Life Insurance	\$ 98,869	\$ 77,422	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000
Staff travel/Reimbursement	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,749	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Diocesan office maintenance	\$ 19,000	\$ 15,774	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
Office expense, suppl & equip	\$ 37,500	\$ 38,578	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
Diocesan Office Insurance	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,766	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Bishop Automobile	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,714	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Diocesan Audit	\$ 19,500	\$ 21,500	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,077	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300
Reserve - Major maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,220	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
<b>Administrative Subtotal</b>	<b>\$708,856</b>	<b>\$595,562</b>	<b>\$ 687,888</b>	<b>\$687,888</b>
Total income	\$1,451,350	\$1,402,373	\$1,374,935	\$1,374,935
Total expenses	\$1,451,299	\$1,262,486	\$1,374,606	\$1,374,606
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>\$51</b>	<b>\$139,887</b>	<b>\$329</b>	<b>\$329</b>

## OVERVIEW OF EXPENSES - 2021 BUDGET

### **DISCERNMENT:**

Seminarians.....	\$12,500
Financial assistance, in the form of partial medical insurance premium payments, to support full-time Seminarians sent from this diocese.	
Commission on Ministry .....	\$3,500
Expenses for the Commission that receives, interviews and recommends those planning to seek ordination, including travel for candidates and seminarians and their spouses, and GOE registrations.	
Commission/Committees - Other.....	\$8,000
Expense reimbursement for committees and commissions that requested support to meet, plan and execute the programs for training, development and outreach in the Diocese. This line item also includes meeting expenses of the Commission on Finance, the Standing Committee and staff.	
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) .....	\$166,682
Our annual assistance provided to support the mission and program work of The Episcopal Church. Pledge is based on DFMS formula and based on overall diocesan income (pledges/endowment)	
Mission Engagement (World Mission).....	\$6,000
Funding to support the commission's work to plan / engage in mission efforts	
Canon to the Ordinary.....	\$65,000
Estimated salary and benefits for our full-time Canon.	
<b>Total Discernment .....</b>	<b>\$261,182</b>

### **DISCIPLESHIP:**

Beckwith Camp & Retreat Center.....	\$112,000
Diocesan support to Beckwith's operating budget to underwrite programs and staffing at Beckwith including summer camps, Cursillo, clergy conferences, scholarships, etc.	
Wilmer Hall Children's Home.....	\$76,000
Diocesan support to Wilmer Hall's operating budget to help underwrite programs and staffing that serve children and young adults in the Mobile, AL area including tutoring, on-campus living, and education programs.	
Murray House .....	\$10,000
Established as an agency of the Diocese in 1995, Murray House is an assisted living facility adjacent to All Saints Episcopal Church in Mobile, Alabama.	
Spiritual Direction Program.....	\$10,000
Funding to provide active clergy support and spiritual direction focused workshops.	

Youth Ministries and Programs.....	\$35,000
Supports activities of Commission on Youth Ministries, including the Jr. High / High School Ministry, Happening, Youth Leader Training, Youth Coordinator, consultative services by Ministry Architects.	
Campus Ministry / Young Adult Ministries.....	\$5,000
Expense assistance for ministry outreach for colleges in the Diocese and support to develop programming for Young Adults.	
Discipleship Programming.....	\$5,000
Expense assistance for various diocesan programming including music, evangelism, vestry, pastoral care education.	
Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission.....	\$8,000
Support for Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation's facilitator training, speakers, and programming.	
School for Ministry, Operations.....	\$7,000
Expense assistance for the in-diocese education and formation of future deacons and priests. Includes annual curriculum license fees.	
School for Ministry, Dean .....	\$27,500
Salary & benefits for the Dean of School for Ministry.	
Missioner for Discipleship .....	\$47,016
Salary & benefits for part time Missioner to assists in development of discipleship/formation resources.	
<b>Total Discipleship .....</b>	<b>\$342,516</b>

## **DEVELOPMENT:**

Education for Ministry / TENS .....	\$0
Annual fee to Sewanee for Diocese to be an EFM-sponsoring agent and annual membership in The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, providing stewardship resources to all churches. 2021 dues paid in 2020.	
Canon for Development .....	\$18,500
Expense assistance for part-time Missioner for Congregational Development salary, benefits & travel.	
Development Programming .....	\$5,000
Programming for CEV, training consultants, Convocational development, and missional engagement.	
Clergy Conferences .....	\$3,000
Programing, accommodations, and other related expenses for clergy conferences/study days in the Diocese.	
University of the South at Sewanee .....	\$3,000
Voluntary pledge toward the operating budget of this academic institution of which we are an owning diocese.	

Deputies to General Convention .....	\$2,500
Budgeted annually on an accrual basis to cover expenses of our deputies to General Convention every three years.	
Delegates to Triennial .....	\$500
Budgeted annually on an accrual basis to cover expenses for up to four delegates to the Triennial meeting of the Women of the Church.	
Delegates to Synod.....	\$500
Partial offset of expenses of delegates to annual Synod meeting (our Synod is Prov. IV dioceses in the southeastern United States.)	
Province IV Quota .....	\$0
Pro-rata share among 21 southeastern dioceses for maintaining programs of the Province. Fee waived in 2021.	
Lambeth Conference.....	\$0
Budgeted annually on an accrual basis for the Bishop to attend Lambeth Conference in England held every 10 years. Re-scheduled for Summer 2021.	
Communications Support .....	\$7,000
Expense to support website, apps, registrations, email marketing, domain name, miscellaneous programming and training for congregations.	
Diocesan Convention .....	\$7,500
Annual supplement to host parish and convention-related Diocesan office expenses. Convention Magazine printing expenses and technology support is now rolled into this.	
Journal of the Convention .....	\$2,000
The official Minutes of the Diocesan Convention with supporting data. The Journal is primarily produced / distributed electronically; a limited number of journals are printed as required.	
Support for Retirees .....	\$16,120
Diocesan portion of premium costs for coverage of retired diocesan employees.	
Liability Insurance .....	\$16,000
Church portion of liability insurance that includes Directors and Officers Liability, Umbrella Liability and Non-owned and Hired Automobile Liability insurance, and diocesan property.	
Diocesan Bond.....	\$1,400
A \$500,000 Fidelity Bond as required.	
<b>Total Development .....</b>	<b>\$83,020</b>

**OFFICE/ADMINISTRATIVE:**

This includes salary and benefits for the Bishop and his Staff (plus required social security, Medicare, and workman’s comp expenses) plus all operational expenses for the Duvall Center.

In 2021 all staff salaries were frozen. In addition, the recent turnover in our Admin Support position will not be back filled in 2021. Medical / dental insurance expense were also reduced for all eligible employees as was staff travel expenses. This portion of the Budget includes all office utilities, IT support, major maintenance, supplies, equipment, printing, postage, and the annual financial audit by our CPA. Diocesan Office Insurance is specifically for the Duvall Center property / liability. It includes the Bishop’s automobile, all Bishop’s travel and in-diocese staff travel expenses. Diocesan Office Depreciation is taken as an audit adjustment after the end of the year and is not shown as an expense in the Budget.

**Total Office / Administrative.....\$687,888**

**TOTAL ALL EXPENSES FOR 2021 ..... \$1,374,606**

**2021 Budget Reduction: -5.3%**



**DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST  
SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER FOR  
VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**February 26-27, 2021**

**I. General Supplemental Rules**

- A. Supersede Regular Rules. These Supplemental Special Rules of Order for Virtual Attendance at Annual Convention shall supersede the regular Rules of Order for Conducting the Business of the Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and, to the extent they are in conflict with the regular Rules of Order, these Special Rules shall prevail.
- B. Purpose. The purpose of these Special Rules is to facilitate the calling and meeting of the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in a situation where it is impractical and risky to hold a face-to-face physical meeting of the Convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related governmental restraints, public health concerns or as otherwise determined by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. These Special Rules of Order will be in effect only for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to be held on February 26-27, 2021.
- C. Interpretation of Certain Constitutional and Canonical Terms. These terms shall have the following interpretation:

“Convention”: The meeting of clergy and laity of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast conducted wholly or in part via remote electronic participation by its members.

“Seat”: The ability to participate in the Convention via electronic connection.

“Voice”: The right to make oral statements electronically during the Convention.

“Vote”: The right to cast an oral voice or electronic vote or to file an electronic ballot during the Convention.

- D. Secretary to Send Login Information. No later than three days before such meeting, the Secretary of Convention, or his, her or their designee, shall send an email to every registered member of Convention at the e-mail address specified by the member setting forth (a) the time of the meeting, (b) the URL and codes necessary to connect to the Internet meeting service (Zoom), and, as an alternative and backup to the audio connection included within the Internet service (Zoom), the phone number and access codes the member needs to participate aurally by telephone, and (c) if a registered, voting delegate, a VPOLL login code.
- E. Convention Officer. In order to facilitate the conduct of an electronic meeting of the Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint one or more Convention Officers to assist the Chair and Secretary of the Convention.

## **II. Opening of Meeting and Quorum**

- A. Login Time. The Secretary or his, her or their designee shall schedule Internet meeting service availability to begin at least 60 minutes before the start of each meeting.
- B. Signing in and out. Members shall identify themselves as required to sign in to the Internet meeting service, and shall maintain Internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present, but shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
- C. Quorum. The Convention Officers shall determine and report to the Secretary the presence of a quorum as required by the Constitution on the basis of the VPOLL login information of registered, voting delegates.

## **III. Conduct of Meeting**

- A. Technical requirements and malfunctions. Each member is responsible for his or her audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
- B. Forced disconnections. The Chair of Convention or Convention Officers may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The Chair's decision to do so,

which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

- C. Assignment of the Floor. To seek recognition by the Chair, a member shall use the Zoom “hand raise” request and await recognition. Once the pending action is completed, the Convention Officer shall clear the online queue.
- D. Seconding of motions and related posts. Members responding “so moved” to a request from the Chair for a motion, or seconding any motion that requires a second, may do so using the Zoom hand raise feature without needing to be recognized by the Chair.
- E. Display of motions. A Convention Officer shall attempt to display the immediately pending question and other relevant pending questions to be displayed therein until disposed of. If that is not possible, the Chair will announce the immediately pending question before each vote.
- F. Video display. The Convention Officer shall attempt to cause a video of the Chair to be displayed throughout the meeting, and if technologically feasible, shall also cause display of the video of the member currently recognized to speak (if such display is permitted by the Chair) or report.

#### IV. Elections and Voting

- A. Nominations from the floor. Any completed application, i.e., signed nomination form, biography, and picture, received after the stated nomination deadline shall be considered a nomination from the floor. Completed applications must be submitted online on the Diocesan Convention Hub **on or before February 15, 2021**. All nominations from the floor will be emailed to clergy and delegates prior to the call to order. **No nominations may be made during the virtual Convention.**
- B. Voting. Ballots will be administered by an internet voting service, VPOLL, using members’ assigned VPOLL login code. Results of votes may be reported to the Bishop by the Convention Officers or the Secretary.

On all elections, on the first two ballots for each office a majority vote is necessary for election. On the third ballot, the candidate with the most votes (plurality) shall be elected.

## V. Resolutions

- A. Resolutions from the Floor. Any resolutions submitted after the prescribed due date of January 12, 2021 must be approved by the Committee on Resolutions and then accepted by Convention before discussion or voting can occur. If an individual or group that missed the prescribed due date of January 12, 2021 is confident of the importance of a resolution, it should be submitted to the Secretary for Convention **on or before February 15, 2021** so that it can receive appropriate attention and be sent to delegates prior to Convention. Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding a “virtual” gathering, **no resolutions may be introduced during the virtual Convention.**
- B. Voting on Resolutions. Resolutions will be voted on using the Internet voting service, VPOLL.

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# Zoom & VPOLL Notes for Diocesan Convention

The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is using two online business tools, Zoom and VPOLL, to conduct the Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> session of this year's annual diocesan convention virtually. This cheat sheet is designed to help you get started, join, and participate in the meeting.

We recommend using two separate devices to access the tools:

- **Zoom Meeting** will be used to record and participate in convention proceedings. Zoom is a web-based video conferencing application. It will be used for interaction, speaking, and simple voting.
- **VPOLL** is a web browser based voting application. It will be used for quorum verification, elections, and other voting as necessary.

The Zoom logo, consisting of the word "zoom" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.The VPOLL logo, featuring a green stylized arrow pointing upwards and to the right, followed by the word "VPOLL" in a green, uppercase, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right.

## System Requirements

**Recommended for Zoom:** Laptop or desktop computer outfitted with a webcam, microphone, and speaker. For more information about system requirements, visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux>. If you have never used Zoom on your device, you will be prompted to install the Zoom Client. Click Download Now. Or if the Zoom Client is already installed on your device you may proceed. It is possible to join using a web browser if you do not wish to download the Zoom Client, but it is not recommended.

**Recommended for VPOLL:** Mobile or other handheld device with web access. There is nothing to install for VPOLL, but you will need to log into the platform with the credentials found in your email.

**Note:** One device may be used for both Zoom and VPOLL, but you will need to feel comfortable with toggling between the two on your device.

## Receiving the Zoom and VPOLL Links

You will receive all information necessary to join the Zoom Meeting and to access VPOLL several days prior to the start of the convention. The email will come from [jenn@diocgc.org](mailto:jenn@diocgc.org). If you did not receive the email, check your junk or spam folders. If you still do not find the email, send an email to [jenn@diocgc.org](mailto:jenn@diocgc.org).

Clergy and lay delegates who are eligible to vote will receive both the Zoom Meeting link and the VPOLL log in credentials.

Clergy and other convention attendees with seat and voice only will be sent the Zoom Meeting link.

All others are invited to watch the convention livestream on the diocesan website, YouTube channel or Facebook page.

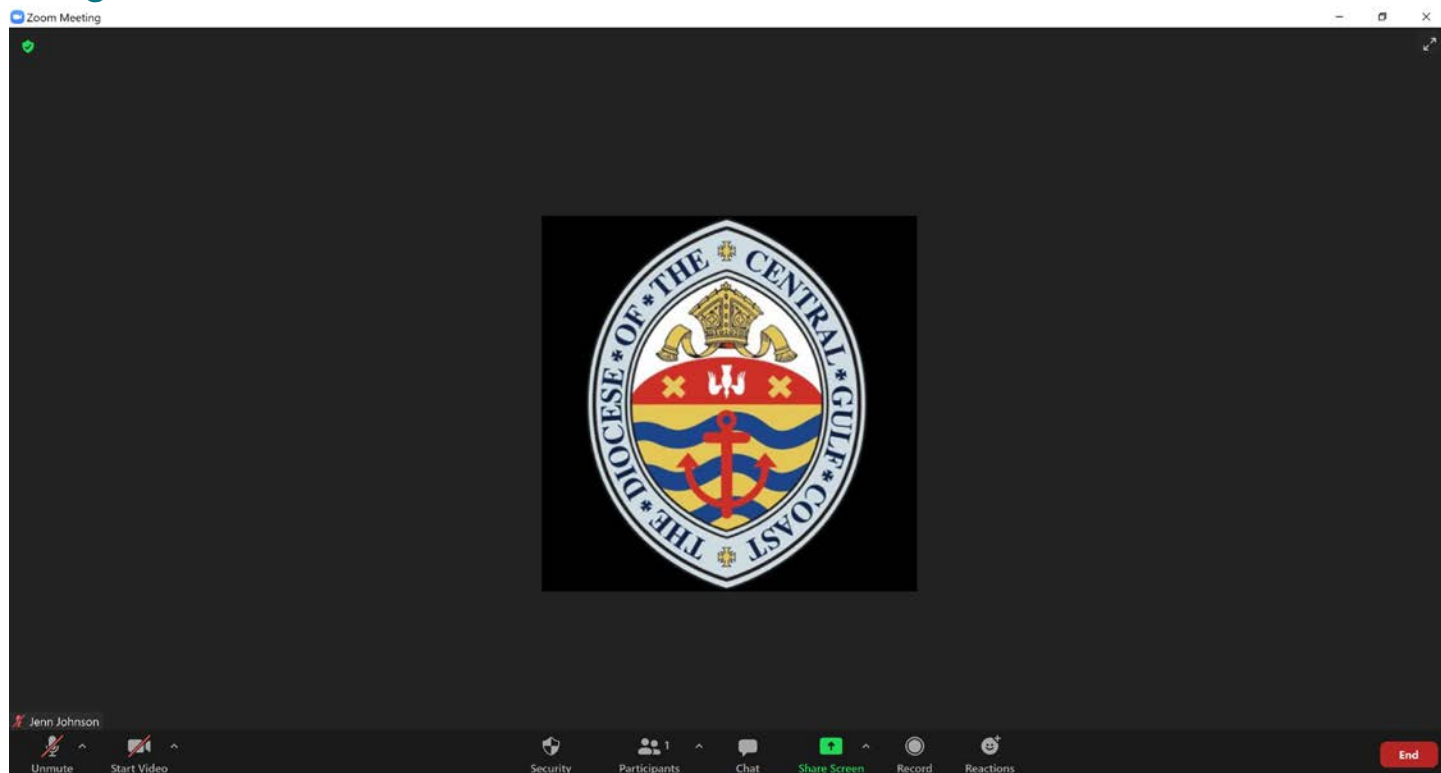
# Zoom

## Joining the Zoom Meeting

After you have successfully logged onto Zoom, you will see a pop-up saying that you are in the Waiting Room and the host will let you in shortly. Once you are admitted, you will be able to see all of the convention attendees. Please remain muted, but feel free to say hello using the Chat function.

Continue reading for instructions on how to use various features of Zoom.

## Using Zoom Functions: Mute and Video



On your screen, the **mute/unmute** and **start/stop video** icons are available in the lower, left hand part of the screen – as shown above. Click on the icons to toggle them off and on. For our convention, we ask that you keep yourself on mute, unless specifically called upon to speak.

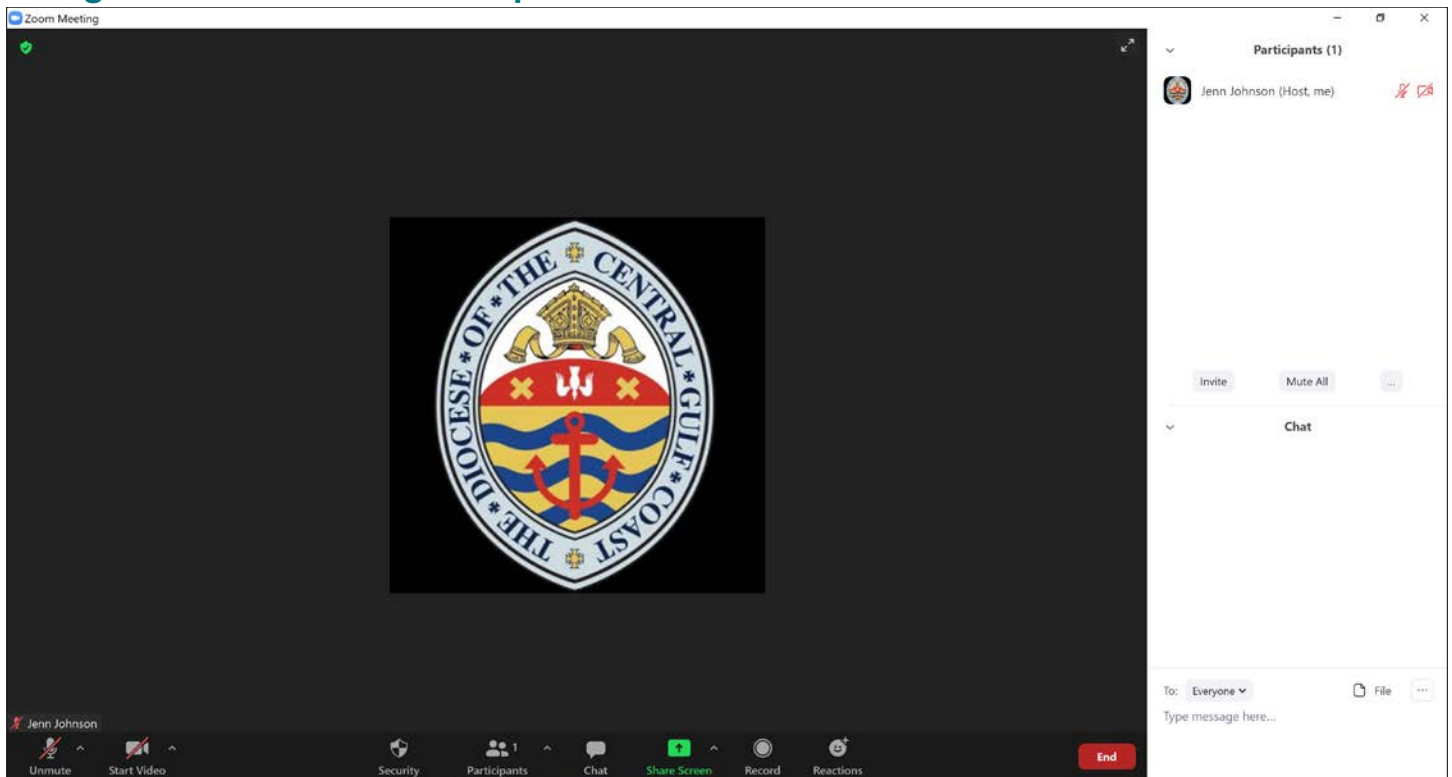
You may wish to turn off your video if you need to step away for a quick break, or if you experience poor connection, turning off your video may improve the quality.

### Note:

Depending on which version of Zoom you currently have installed on your device, certain functions may be located on different areas of your screen. Explore your screen to find the functions.

The Record and Share Screen features will be disabled for participants during our convention Zoom meeting.

## Using Zoom Functions: Participants and Chat

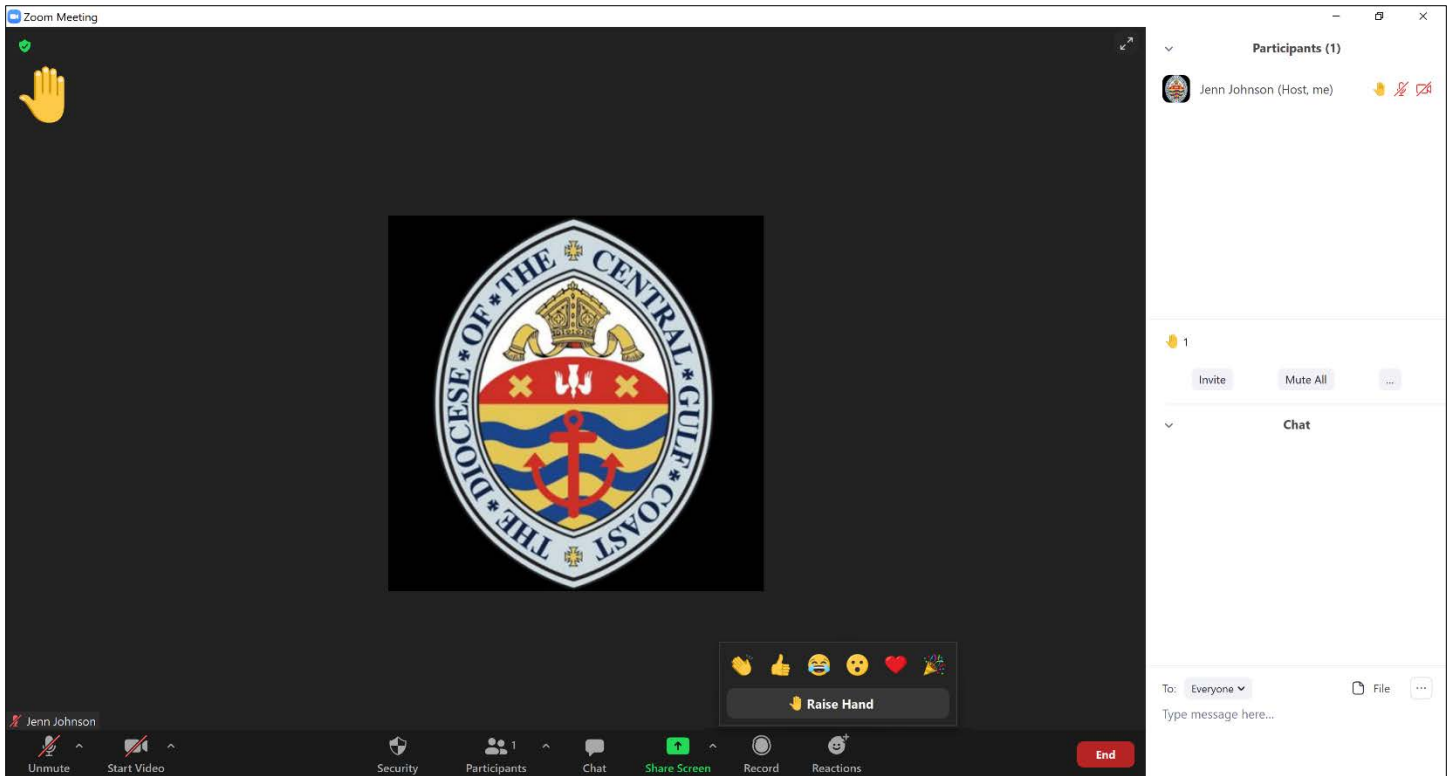


On your screen, you will see the icons for the **Participants** and **Chat** features along the bottom, center part of your screen – as shown above. When you click either of these icons, you will see windows pop-up along the right-hand side of your screen.

Under **Participants** you will see a listing of everyone who has joined the meeting. To rename yourself, find yourself on the list. Select “more,” then “rename.” Type in your name and church.

Under **Chat** you will see the option “Type message here.” You can send a message to everyone, or choose to send a message privately to one of the participants. We will have a Chat Monitor who will watch for any general questions; however, ***the Chat feature will not be used for debate or official business.***

## Using Zoom Functions: Raising Your Hand – How to Be Officially Recognized to Speak



On your screen, you should see an icon for Reactions. Click on the icon, and a small window will pop-up as shown in the image above. Click the **Raise Hand** option. You will then see a small hand icon next to your name in the participants list, and also on the upper, left-hand side of your video window. Click the option again to lower your hand.

In order to be officially recognized to speak and address the members of the convention, you will use the Raise Hand feature. Clicking this feature will put you in line to be called upon by the Convention President. After you have spoken, an administrator will lower your hand. If you click on this feature by mistake, or change your mind, simply click **Lower Hand**.

The **Raise Hand** feature may also be used for votes of acclamation. Listen for this option during the convention proceedings.

### Other Zoom Functions: Poll and Breakout Rooms

Zoom Polls may be used for a spontaneous question or vote. If used, a window will pop-up on your computer screen with a question to answer. Answer the question, then click submit. An administrator will share the results of the poll.

Breakout Rooms will be used during our formation time and small group conversation. When Breakout Rooms are initiated you will see a pop-up on your screen asking you to Join Now. Click Join Now. Once you are in your Breakout Room, a facilitator will guide the conversation. When it's time to return to the main meeting, you will be given a two-minute notification, then you will see a pop-up window telling you it's time to return.



# VPOLL

To access VPOLL, we recommend using a separate device other than the one you are using for the Zoom Meeting.

## Accessing VPOLL

Open a web browser on your device, and go to [www.vpoll.mobi](http://www.vpoll.mobi).

**Enter the Access Code: goforward** (not case sensitive, no space)

**Enter the Login Criteria:**

- **your email address** (*the same one provided to us during the registration process*), plus
- **individual ID number** – (see yesterday’s email from jenn@diocgc.org – check spam folder if you did not receive)

## Select the Polling Session: Diocesan Convention

Remain logged into VPOLL for the duration of the convention. If for any reason you get logged off of VPOLL, simply log back in.

## Voting by VPOLL

After you have logged into VPOLL on Saturday morning prior to the start of the convention, answer the Quorum question and click “submit.”

During the course of the convention proceedings, you will be prompted when a new vote is to be taken. Be sure to click “submit” after each vote.

# DELEGATE CHANGE FORM

USE THIS FORM TO MAKE **CHANGES** IN YOUR DELEGATION TO THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION. RETURN IT TO THE DIOCESAN OFFICE AS YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR DELEGATION. HAVING YOUR DELEGATION CORRECT BEFORE CONVENTION WILL AVOID CONFUSION DURING REGISTRATION AT CONVENTION.



*Cut along dotted line.*



.....

CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ was  
*Name of original delegate/alternate*

elected a

☐ **Delegate**      ☐ **Alternate** to the Diocesan Convention, but will not be able to serve in this capacity.

\_\_\_\_\_, whose address  
is *Name of new delegate/alternate* (Please indicate name preferred for nametag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address of new delegate/alternate* *email address (required)*

having declared his/her intention to attend, he/she is therefore, according to the Canons of this Diocese, a ☐ **Delegate** ☐ **Alternate** in place of the duly elected delegate.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk of the Vestry

or \_\_\_\_\_ Rector/Vicar

or \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary of Convention/Convention Registrars



The Central Gulf Coast Diocesan Assembly of The Order of the Daughters of the King® is a praying presence during this Diocesan Convention. Members from various chapters throughout the Diocese will be praying for the Convention and any other personal requests. Send your individual request(s) to the email address or text the cell phone number listed below.

#### PRAYER REQUEST

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REQUESTED BY:

SEND TO: Diocesan President Beth Moore:

[bethcmoore@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethcmoore@bellsouth.net)

Cell Phone (901)834-0091 – Please add your name to the text.