



The Diocese of Virginia 232nd Annual Convention – 2026

Workshops

Turning the World Upside Down with Love: Scripture and Social Action in Hard Times

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Ballroom A

Presenter: The Rt. Rev'd Craig Loya, Bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota

Description: In a season when life unfolds in the key of rancor, and scorn is the common currency, the way of Jesus offers a unique vision of human flourishing, human community, and social action. This workshop will explore how grounding our witness and our action as a church firmly scripture can help offer a third way that can join God in transforming and healing the world with love.

Reading the Bible Thoughtfully in a Congregation

Time: 3:00 PM Location: Ballroom A

Presenter: The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.

Description: The goal of this session is to think through the Anglican understanding of Biblical authority. Opportunities will be available to explore the best way to introduce regular Bible study to a congregation.

Enchantment vs. Entrapment: Faith Formation for the Next Generation

Time: 2:00 PM & 3:00 PM Location: Ballroom C

Presenter: Melina Luna-Smith and Catherine Breed, StoryMakersNYC

Description: In a world designed to capture our children's attention, how do we help the next generation encounter something deeper? Jesus cared for people's minds, bodies, and spirits -- their whole selves -- and we are called to do the same. This engaging workshop explores the difference between enchantment (wonder, imagination, beauty, and meaningful connection) and entrapment (the forces competing for our children's attention, identity, and formation). Together, we'll consider how the Church can nurture social, emotional, and spiritual lives, offering young people a faith that is not merely taught, but experienced, embodied, and lived. At StoryMakers, we believe the stories in the Bible have the power to enchant our minds and hearts, and to open our eyes to God's presence all around us. We are also part of this story; our role is to guide our kids, and walk alongside them as they are formed and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

An Apocalyptic View of Immigration Advocacy

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Ballroom D

Presenter: Troy Collazo, Director of Government Relations,
Office of the Presiding Bishop

Description: An overview of immigration advocacy in today's challenging climate. This workshop equips advocates to understand the perspectives, needs, obstacles, and goals of nonprofit, private-sector, and public-sector stakeholders working to advance comprehensive immigration reform.

Following Jesus: What Does Our Yes Look Like?

Time: 3:00 PM: Location: Ballroom D

Presenter: The Rev'd Canon Ricardo Sheppard

Description: We say yes to Jesus in our worship and baptismal covenant, but what does that yes look like on Monday morning? How does following Jesus shape our choices, relationships, and response to the world around us?

This interactive, 45-minute workshop invites clergy and lay people to explore discipleship as a way of life. Through Scripture, storytelling, and small-group conversation, we will consider what helps us follow Jesus, what gets in our way, and how we can encourage one another along the journey. Come ready to reflect, share, and leave with one concrete step toward putting your yes into practice.

Big Changes Coming to Enable Congregations to Spread the Gospel: General Convention Update

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Ballroom E

Presenter: General Convention Deputies

Description: All delegates and visitors are welcome. The deputies and alternates will be presenting an update on General Convention issues for the whole diocese.

Archives/History

Time: 3:00 PM Location: Ballroom E

Presenter: Nathan Madison

Description: This session will provide an update as to the work of the Historiographer regarding the organization, digitization, and preservation of the Diocesan Archives. It will also provide a venue to answer attendees' questions concerning the preservation of their historical records, best archival practices, maintaining current records for the future, and how the Historiographer, and the Diocesan Archives, can aid in their efforts.

Pathways to Prayer and Practice

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Ballroom F

Presenter: Tyler Henderson, Pathways to Prayer & Practice

Description: This workshop will offer an opportunity to reflect on children's participation in worship and the life of the church through the lens of the Pathways to Prayer and Practice initiative.

Vocational Discernment: Your story as God's story

Time: 3:00 PM Location: Ballroom F

Presenter: The Rev'd Canon Dr. Sarah Kye Price

Description: This workshop will focus on awareness of God's call on our lives, from Baptism and beyond. When we are reflecting on and sharing our stories of vocation and call, how does this reflect God's movement in the world and in the church? This workshop is intended to help those engaged in and discerning both lay and ordained ministries learn to tell their own vocational stories as a tool of both discernment and faith formation.

Virginia Episcopal Investment Funds

Time: 2:00 PM & 3:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 1

Presenter: Anne Richardson, Executive Director, Virginia Episcopal Investment Funds (VEIF) and VEIF Board Members

Description: Financial assets help sustain parish mission and ministry and can make it possible to expand in new ways. Do you have the right structure and management in place for your church today? Join VEIF's new executive director for a review of financial asset structure for churches, general principles when considering investment of funds, and ideas on growing your giving during this end of year season and throughout the church year.

Convention Youth Only

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 3

Presenter: Convention Youth

Description: A dedicated session space for the Youth Delegates to Annual Convention

Young Adult Ministry Crash Course with the Campus Ministers: “Where are the young adults?”

Time: 3:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 3

Presenter: Rev. Peter Kang, Rev. Ethan Lowery, Rev. Laura Minnick Lockey, Rev. Katie Gooch, Rev. Andrew Enszt

Description: Young Adult Ministry Crash Course with the Campus Ministers: “Where are the young adults?” is a decades-old question that feels so familiar and as urgent as ever for the ministry and life of The Episcopal Church; it is a question at the heart of our campus ministries. Come and hear our diocesan campus ministers frame the pastoral, relational, and theological work of ministering to and with young adults and learn some practical and grounding practices and tactics for how to welcome young people well, build multi-generational friendships, and incorporate them into the ministry and leadership of our churches.

I Love to Tell the Story - Biblical Storytelling

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 4

Presenter: Denise Bennett

Description: Using a short story from Mark's Gospel, we will learn a simple method for entering the story similar to Ignatian meditation. Igniting our God given gift of imagination, we can learn to move from "reading the story" to telling in whatever ministry context we find ourselves.

Telling Our Story: The Digital Landscape

Time: 3:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 4

Presenter: Ashley Graham Wilcox, Caffeinated Church

Description: Telling Our Story: Belonging Before Belief and the Digital Landscape How do we faithfully tell the story of a God who is already at work in people's lives — even when they've stopped looking for God in church? New research on Gen Z, Millennial, and Latino audiences points to something more hopeful than the usual story of decline: spirituality and religious belonging have quietly come apart, and what holds people back isn't disbelief — it's the fear that they won't belong. In this workshop, the team from Caffeinated Church shares what actually draws people in — belonging before belief, authentic relationship before institutional trust, and the purpose and meaning the Gospel has always offered — and what that looks like in practice.

Participants will leave with a digital communications approach for reaching these audiences, and practical guidance on platform so you can build a rhythm your own team can sustain.

Faith in Housing: Introduction to Mission Real Estate and Affordable Housing

Time: 2:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 5

Presenters: Nina Janopaul, President, VEREP

Mariah Williams, MURP, Strategic Housing Manager, Virginia Housing

Rev. Gary J. Baker, Kingston Episcopal Parish, Matthews

Kat Turner, Senior Warden, Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria

Description: Does your congregation have underutilized land or building space?

Learn about the advisory services and funding available from Virginia Episcopal Real Estate Partners (VEREP), a related organization to the Diocese of Virginia. Get

updated on the new Virginia Faith in Housing legislation that permits affordable housing by right on faith-owned land. Bring your questions.

Understand Your Property, Renew Your Mission: The Value of a Capital Needs Assessment

Time: 3:00 PM Location: Meeting Room 5

Presenters: Sarah Whiting, Executive Director, VEREP

Rev. John T. Thomas, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Greenwood

Rev. Ben Campbell, Trustee, VEREP

Description: Does your congregation have a plan for maintaining and replacing key building systems? Are you making the most of your property, including underutilized classrooms, meeting spaces, or other facilities that could be shared with community groups or generate rental income? Perhaps most importantly, are you wondering how your property could support your congregation's mission in new ways?

Virginia Episcopal Real Estate Partners (VEREP), a related organization of the Diocese of Virginia, will share practical guides, webinars, and real-world case studies to help congregations better understand their property needs, plan for the future, and explore mission-driven opportunities. Bring your questions.