CR-1 In Honor of the Reverend Oran Warder Upon His Retirement as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

WHEREAS, the Reverend Oran Warder has faithfully served as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Virginia for more than twenty-six years of dedicated ministry; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Reverend Warder has exemplified the highest calling of the priesthood through his unwavering commitment to developing and strengthening the ministries of others, empowering the faithful to engage in individual and corporate mission in God's world; and

WHEREAS, under his visionary leadership, St. Paul's Episcopal Church has grown to a vibrant congregation of more than three thousand members, while he has also overseen the thoughtful renovation and restoration of the historic church grounds, honoring both tradition and contemporary needs; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Warder has extended Christ's love beyond our parish walls through numerous service ministries, including Meade Memorial Lunches and Carpenter's Shelter meals and support, as well as a transformative partnership with the Archbishop and the Episcopal Church of Sudan, providing crucial support to the Renk Basic School annually through Pennies from Heaven; and

WHEREAS, he has established and nurtured the Lazarus Ministry, bringing hope and tangible assistance to marginalized and underserved populations in our community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Warder has shared his expertise and passion for liturgical practice as an adjunct instructor of Liturgics at Virginia Theological Seminary, enriching the formation of future clergy; and

WHEREAS, he has helped to mentor and develop scores of seminarians in their formation journeys by guiding them with his experience and insight, preparing them in their calling to serve Christ in the world; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Warder has led multiple pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Europe, deepening the spiritual formation of countless pilgrims and expanding their understanding of our Christian heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Virginia has been immeasurably blessed by his faithful stewardship, prophetic witness, and generous spirit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the 232nd Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia does hereby honor and commend the Reverend Oran Warder for his outstanding service, his Christ-centered leadership, and his transformative ministry. We give thanks to Almighty God for his priesthood and recommit ourselves to the work of strengthening others in mission to which he has devoted his life.

We wish Reverend Warder and his beloved family God's richest blessings in this new season of his pilgrimage, confident that his faithful witness will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

Submitted by
The Vestry of St. Paul's Alexandria