

CR-4. Resolution Saluting the Rev. Andrew T. P. Merrow

RESOLVED, by the 231st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that Convention, to:

Congratulate the Rev. Andrew T.P. Merrow on his recent retirement after more than forty years of service as the Rector of St. Mary's, Arlington;

Celebrate the many blessings Father Merrow's ministry gave to St. Mary's as a parish, to the community, to our Diocese, and to the wider Anglican Communion; and

Recognize that St. Mary's grew sevenfold in membership during Fr. Merrow's time as rector, as people responded to his faithfulness and consistency in pastoral ministry, his

steady focus on service to the community, his repeated initiatives in helping start new and enduring outreach ministries in northern Virginia, and his faithful and insightful witness to Jesus empowering people to apply the Gospel to build up kindness, community, and care for our neighbors;

Heartily thank Fr. Merrow for his unstinting service to our Diocese, service that included vital roles in:

- helping to plant and nurture the vibrant congregation of Iglesia Santa Maria in Falls Church;
- three terms of service on the Standing Committee, including service as President;
- leadership of the 2014-15 Shrine Mont Capital Campaign, as well lengthy service on the Shrine Mont Board
- two decades of work as Diocesan Missionary Society Trustee;
- lengthy service on the Resolutions Committee, including service as chair during very difficult controversies over human sexuality, as well as lengthy service on the Sexuality Dialogue Group; and
- two decades of work on the Board of Examining Chaplains.

Salute his outstanding service to the wider Episcopal Church and to the Anglican Communion, including:

- Over two decades of teaching as an adjunct Professor at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), and lengthy service on the VTS Board of Trustees;
- Service on the Board of Directors of the Anglican Communion Compass Rose Society from 2016 through 2024;

- Over twenty years, working with our Bishops and with sister parishes in our Diocese to help build and dedicate St. Matthew's Cathedral, in Renk, South Sudan, to help install the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), to support refugee relief and the translation of the New Testament into the Dinka language, and to advocate for peace efforts, protection of human rights, and humanitarian relief in Sudan and South Sudan through the American Friends of the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan (AFRECS); and
- Initiating multiple parish partnerships with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in Tanzania, with the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center, and with San Lucas Parish in the Diocese of Honduras.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that Convention wish Father Merrow and his wife, Cameron, a long, happy, and healthy retirement, and commend the splendid example of Father Merrow's faithful ministry to our clergy and lay leaders.

Submitted by:

Vestry of St. Mary's, Arlington, by unanimous vote, October 14, 2025