

## **2025 Annual Report of the Executive Board of The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia**

The Executive Board (EB) is the governing body of the Diocese of Virginia between sessions of Annual Convention and is responsible for oversight of the budget and program of the Diocese.

### **Composition of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board is composed of the Bishop Diocesan, the Bishop Coadjutor if there is one, the Suffragan Bishops if there are any, the assistant Bishops, if any, as well as 16 members selected by the 16 regions of the Diocese to terms of three years. By custom, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) are represented by its President, who has a seat and voice but no vote on the EB. In addition, at the 226th Annual Convention, an amendment was made to Canon 7.1 of the Constitution and Canons to provide for wider diversity and equity that may not always be represented. The Bishop may appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, no more than three at-large members (whether lay or clerical) for a one-year term, with the option of reappointment for no more than two additional one-year terms. The appointed at-large members shall be clergy who are on the Official List of the Clergy of the Diocese or lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church in the Diocese and may not be the Dean or President of a Region or a member of the Standing Committee.

The Bishop is the President of the Board, and a lay vice president is elected annually. Board members are divided into two groups, the Working Group on Budget and the Working Group on Program. The Working Group on Budget works closely with the Treasurer of the Diocese to draft and refine the annual budget. The Working Group on Program works on the program for the Annual Convention along with Diocesan staff, makes recommendations regarding grants, and handles other matters unrelated to the budget.

### **2025 Executive Board Members**

The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop Diocesan, President  
The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Assistant Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas, Assistant Bishop  
Ms. Kat Turner, Alexandria Region (Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria)  
Ms. Linda Kelleher, Arlington Region (St. Michael's, Arlington)  
The Rev. Vinnie Lainson, Culpeper Region (Christ Church, Brandy Station)  
Mr. Harry Dickinson, Fredericksburg Region (Trinity, Fredericksburg)  
Ms. Deb Gandy, Member at Large (St. Mary's Arlington)  
Ms. Joni Langevoort, North Fairfax Region (Holy Comforter, Vienna)  
Ms. Mary (Boo) Elmore, North Richmond Region (Immanuel, Old Church, Mechanicsville)  
The Rev. William Stafford-Whitaker, Northern Neck Region (Wicomico Church, Wicomico)  
The Rev. Sarah Colvin, Potomac Region (All Saints Sharon Chapel, Alexandria)  
The Rev. John Shellito, South Fairfax Region (St. Barnabas, Annandale)  
The Rev. Laura Minnich Lockey, Harrisonburg (Canterbury Campus Ministry)  
Ms. Nadine Pluchinsky, North Shenandoah Region (Grace, Berryville)  
Mr. Jim Carlock, Member at Large (Trinity, Fredericksburg)  
The Rev. Benjamin Badgett, Central Richmond Region (St. Mark's, Richmond)  
Ms. Cynthia Arnold, Charlottesville Region (St. Thomas, Orange)  
Ms. Jane Roth, Northern Piedmont Region (St. James's, Leesburg)  
The Rev. Theresa Brion, Upper Tidewater (St. John's, West Point)  
Mr. Philip Tickle, West Richmond Region (All Saints, Richmond)

Ms. Karen Franklin, Member at Large (St. Mark's, Richmond)  
Ms. Catherine Perrin, ECW President

Since the last Convention in November 2024, there have been four meetings of the EB and there was one 2024 meeting that was not included in the 2024 report. A summary of the most relevant matters discussed is provided below.

### **October 2, 2024 Meeting**

- Bishop Stevenson announced that the Diocese has received a \$1.2 million grant from the Lily Foundation to develop resources and programs for children up to 10 years old.
- The EB approved the list of parishes who asked for adjustments to their 10% covenantal giving pledge amount.
- After a review of the income projection (including the covenantal giving adjustments) and the expense line items presented by Mr. Ted Smith, the EB approved the draft budget to be presented for Annual Convention.
- Mr. Eastham noted that all parishes in the Diocese are eligible to become members of the Caffeinated Church network for a \$20 fee.

### **December 12, 2024 Meeting**

- New members of the incoming 2025 EB the Rev. Benjamin Badgett, Ms. Cynthia Arnold, Ms. Jane Roth, the Rev. Theresa Brion, Mr. Philip Tickle, and Ms. Catherine Perrin were welcomed.
- The outgoing EB members the Rev. Amanda Kotval, Ms. Mickie Jones, the Rev. Gene LeCouteur, Ms. Laura Bondrant, the Rev. Emily Dunevant, and Ms. Ericka Masias were acknowledged for their service on the EB.
- Ms. Deb Gandy and Mr. Jim Carlock were reappointed to serve another year as an At-Large Member of the EB. Ms. Gandy will also continue to serve as the EB representative to the Trustees of the Funds (TOTF) and to the Reparations Task Force.
- Ms. Gandy and Mr. Dickinson agreed to serve on the nominating committee for the Trustees of the Funds again.
- Bishop Stevenson announced that the Rev. Will Dickinson had been hired as the new Transition Minister.
- The EB approved the 2025 Housing Allowance resolution for clergy employed by the Diocese.
- The 2025 regional budgets for three regions (Fredericksburg, Northern Neck, and Southern Shenandoah) were approved.

### **February 20, 2025 Meeting**

- Bishop Stevenson introduced The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas who would join the Diocese as Assistant Bishop June 1.
- Bishop Stevenson announced the formation of an Architectural Resource Team to assist parishes who might have architectural or engineering issues.
- Bishop Stevenson noted that there is a great deal of anxiety currently around immigration issues and that the February Clergy Call dealt with this topic.
- Mr. Eastham provided an overview of the responsibilities of the EB and provided a list of the members of the Budget Working Group and the Program Working Group. Ms. Kat Turner will chair the Budget Working Group and Ms. Boo Elmore will chair the Program Working Group.
- The 2025 Empowerment Resolution was approved.

- Mr. Harry Dickinson was elected to serve as the Vice President. Mr. Mark Eastham was elected to serve as the Secretary. Bishop Stevenson appointed Mr. Bill Martin to be the Coordinator. He also appointed Ms. Jane Roth and Mr. Harry Dickinson to serve with Ms. Gandy on the TOTF Nominating Committee.
- Bishop Stevenson appointed Ms. Jane Roth, Mr. Harry Dickinson, the Rev. John Shellito, and the Rev. Benjamin Badgett to serve on the Covenantal Giving Committee.
- The EB approved the budgets for the Alexandria and North Fairfax Regions.

#### **April 10, 2025 Meeting**

- The EB met in retreat the evening before the Board meeting for discussion about the role of the EB.
- Bishop Stevenson introduced the three speakers for the meeting: the Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr. to report on the progress of the ongoing work in racial justice and healing and how to encourage and empower the people involved in this ministry; Mr. Tyler Henderson, Pathways to Prayer and Practice Grant Director, to discuss the five-year project to create Christian Formation programs for children ten years of age and under; and the Rev. Shirley Smith Graham, Minister of Congregational Virality, to present the findings from her recently completed Congregational Vitality Listening Tour throughout the Diocese.
- Bishop Stevenson then asked Board members, after each of the three presentations, to write down their thoughts and ideas on what God is calling us to do regarding the topics presented. These thoughts were then collected and recorded for discussion at a future meeting.
- The EB approved the budget for the North Richmond Region.

#### **June 12, 2025 Meeting**

- Bishop Stevenson appointed Ms. Karen Franklin as At-Large-Member. She is a member of St. Marks, Richmond.
- Bishop Stevenson welcomed Bishop Bourlakas as an Assistant Bishop and the Rev. Ricardo Sheppard as the Canon for Discipleship.
- Interim Canon Heidi Kim made a presentation on the information that was gleaned from the Executive Board retreat in April on how the EB can serve the people of the Diocese effectively.
- Bishop Stevenson reported that Mr. Greg Randall has been hired as Camps Director beginning in 2026 and then he moderated a discussion about Shrine Mont Camps.
- The EB approved the grant requests for the Bishop's Appeal and Peter James Lee Small Church Revitalization grants as recommended by the Program Work Group.
- The EB approved 25 applications for the Blakemore Trust Children's Scholarship funds. The Scholarships totaled approximately \$60,000.
- The EB approved a resolution to designate a property known as St. John's Episcopal Church at 4040 Lewistown Rd in Bumpass, VA as abandoned to clear up the ownership to the name of the Bishop.
- The EB approved housing allowance resolutions for Bishop Bourlakas and Canon Sheppard.
- Treasurer Ted Smith announced that the Covenantal Giving adjustment meeting would be held June 21 on Zoom.

**October 1, 2025**

- Bishop Stevenson noted the success of Shrine Mont Camps this year and praised Ms. Mary Beth Abplanalp for her work as Interim Camps Director. There was a 12% increase in campers.
- The EB approved the list of parishes who asked for adjustments to their 10% covenantal giving pledge amount.
- After a review of the income projection (including the covenantal giving adjustments) and the expense line items presented by Mr. Ted Smith, the EB approved the draft budget to be presented at Annual Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry D. Dickinson

Vice-President