Episcopal Diocese of Virginia: 2026 Fredericksburg Region Annual Report

Read the Book. Tell the Story

The Fredericksburg Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia is composed of nine church communities and the campus ministry at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. It is a diverse region that includes urban, suburban, and rural church communities. The Very Reverend Joe Hensley is the Dean of our region. The Reverend Jay Morris of Aquia, Stafford is our representative to the Diocesan Executive Board. Cindy Helton is our Diocesan ECW representative.

We open meetings with Evening worship followed by attendees being asked to share what is making them joyful. Then we enjoy a simple dinner provided by different members. Our meetings have been held at Trinity, Fredericksburg. We have had guest speakers that included The Rt. Reverend Gayle E. Harris in May and Meghann Cotter, Executive Servant Leader of Micah Ministries, in September who spoke about homes for the homeless, called the Jeremiah Project.

The Region has held 4 meetings since the 2025 Convention, in addition to 4 Executive Committee meetings.

The regional clergy meet monthly for prayer, fellowship, and conversations about Diocesan and Regional ministries. They meet at different churches around the region. Trinity welcomed a new rector, Rev. Suzanne Hood, in November 2025. The Rev. Denise Bennett ended as Priest in Charge at St. Asaph's Bowling Green in May 2026. The Rev. Rock Higgins was Interim Associate Rector of St. George's, Fredericksburg, October 2025-July 2026. The Rev. Frank Uwaezuoke, Priest of the Church of Nigeria, licensed in Virginia, became Priest Associate, and Chaplin Intern at Mary Washington Hospital beginning July 2025. The Rev. Paige Trivett, Associate Rector of St. George's, Fredericksburg, began August 2026.

Roan Grapes of Hanover with Brunswick was elected president of the Fredericksburg Region in February. Our new treasurer Connie Hockaday of Christ Church Spotsylvania took over in May from Rev. Deacon Salli Hartman. We still have an open Vice-president position.

One of our goals for this year was a review and update of the regional bylaws. This was completed and voted on in May.

Trinity hosted an "I Will With God's Help" Diocesan racial justice and healing training in January with participation of other regional churches. St. Asaph's in Bowling Green has chosen to be Lay led with contracts for supply priests and they report that it is going well.

St. Mary's of Colonial Beach moved to the Northern Neck Region, and we wish them the best. St. Paul's, King George had a highly successful Oktoberfest despite the weather.

The House, the diocesan campus ministry to the University of Mary Washington has had an awesome year of ministry working with a community of 30 college students and student leaders. They've been enjoying a weekly schedule of Tuesday dinners, Wednesday bible studies, and Thursday office hours. And recently, organizing and leading a programmatic merger with our Methodist-Presbyterian partner ministry, which has expanded the budget and the church partnerships to include ten more congregations across the progressive mainline. Looking ahead, we're excited to shore up the board functions, our fundraising efforts, and to continue to empower our student leaders.

Finally, praying for a year of deeper faith and greater outreach.

Respectfully submitted by Roan Grapes, Fredericksburg Region President