

Global Mission and Episcopal Relief & Development Report

231st Annual Convention, Diocese of Virginia

In response to General Convention resolution, A016 (2022), and its successor A085 (2024) both of which encouraged all dioceses, jurisdictions, and seminaries to appoint a Global Mission Advocate (GMA), the Diocese of Virginia appointed Diane Wright as our diocesan GMA in June 2023. The purpose of a GMA is to help the church fully live out its global mission mandate.

Since then, the GMA team has exhibited at the Diocesan Annual Convention and offered workshops. Last year's workshop focused on "reimagining global mission, becoming a world where love is the way." Participants engaged in learning and dialogue around what is global mission, why engage in global mission, how to engage, and learned that the GMA team can support them. This year's convention workshop focuses on storytelling around the theme "seeing God's love transform churches through global mission."

The GMA team has offered quarterly global mission compline prayer services, where participants pray for global partners throughout the Anglican Communion. Monthly e-news and clergy communique contributions shared updates and resources for World Mission Sunday, information about the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) Mission Conference, online conversations about global mission, spiritual enrichment and congregational vitality, information about global mission webinars offered by the Office of Global Partnerships and GEMN, details about the Lambeth Call on Mission and Evangelism, and announced the new Haiti Advocacy Ministry with both the Diocese of Washington and Diocese of Virginia.

The Diocese of Virginia also appointed Nancy Searby as the Ministry Partner with Episcopal Relief & Development in April 2025. Episcopal Relief & Development partners with local faith and organizations to address global challenges. Collaborative efforts on four interconnected priorities: early childhood development, women and girls, climate resilience and disaster response reached 4.9 million people, creating lasting change in communities worldwide.

Episcopal Relief & Development Planning calendars that identify global observance days were highlighted in the e-news for consideration of ways to include these days, e.g. International Literacy Day, in congregational life. An

exhibit to increase awareness about the work of Episcopal Relief & Development will be provided at Annual Convention this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wright, Global Mission Advocate & Nancy Searby, Episcopal Relief & Development Ministry Partner