

Whereas, the Diocese of Virginia is thankful for the life of Mareea Wilson, who died peacefully with family by her side in the afternoon of December 3rd, 2025, at her home in Charlottesville, Virginia; and

Whereas, prayers are invited for Mareea's daughters Leah, Jan, and Betty Jo, and all of Mareea's family and friends as Mareea continues to be remembered with appreciation and grief; and

Whereas, Mareea was an active and devoted member at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church for over forty years, where she served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden; and

Whereas, during her time at St. Barnabas', she was appointed, by the late Bishop Peter Lee, to The Diocesan Committee on Racial Equity and Diversity, where she loved the committee and its mission, travelling the world to promote leadership that includes all races and ethnicities; and

Whereas, in 2015, the Committee on Race for the Diocese of Virginia created the Meet Me in Galilee Award, which recognizes individuals and/or churches in the Diocese for their continuing work in the ministry of reconciliation, with this award being "given in honor of the lifelong efforts of Mareea Wilson, Gladys Lewis, Joseph Royster and Maurice Spraggins as leaders in the Diocese for reconciliation, especially among those divided because of race and ethnicity"; and

Whereas, Mareea moved to Charlottesville, VA, in November 2015, where she found another church family in Trinity Episcopal Church, creating new bonus family members and friends that she loved and welcomed into her life; and

Whereas, Mareea served faithfully as a registered dietitian with the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Hampton, Virginia, and then with the VA Hospital in Washington, DC, concluding her distinguished career at Howard University Hospital, where she retired as Chief of Dietetics, fulfilling a call she received in childhood; and

Whereas, Mareea loved the hymn "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky", where the third verse invites all to sing of God's promise and call from God's own perspective, singing "*I will tend the poor and lame, / I will set a feast for them, / My hand will save. / Finest bread I will provide / Till their hearts be satisfied. / I will give my life to them. / Whom shall I send?*" ; and

Whereas, Mareea did answer her call with faithfulness, grace, and good humor; and

Whereas, Mareea and her family worked to integrate various areas of their community in East Orange, New Jersey; and

Whereas, Mareea also personally fought for equality as a youth, insisting on the opportunity to try out for the girls' swim team at East Orange High School—where she made the team; and

Whereas, Mareea openly shared her life experiences with grace and humility, earning the description that she never met a stranger, being widely known for her kindness; and

Whereas, Mareea served as an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEOC) counselor with the Veterans Administration as a part of her service there—advocating for and implementing meaningful changes in policies and procedures, now therefore be it

Resolved, that this 232nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia honors Mareea's memory and celebrates the many ways her ministries continue on in the lives of her many friends, her family, and her fellow lay-leaders; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Mareea's daughters: Leah W. Puryear, Jan W. Jones, and Betty Jo Fortune, as well as to her two Diocese of Virginia congregations: St. Barnabas', Annandale, and Trinity, Charlottesville.

Submitted by the Trinity Vestry and the St. Barnabas' Vestry
August 25th, 2026