

Episcopal Diocese of Virginia: 2026 Northern Neck Region Annual Report

Love Jesus. Embody justice. Be disciples.

Read the Book. Tell the Story.

The Northern Neck Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia is composed of fourteen church communities, including the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. The Very Reverend Willam Stafford-Whittaker is the Dean of the Northern Neck Region. The Reverend David Jutsum of St. Stephen's in Heathsville is the region representative to the Diocesan Executive Board. The Reverend Rod Gordon of St. Peter's, Oak Grove is a member of the Standing Committee.

The Northern Neck Region held five Region meetings in 2026, and additional meetings were held by the Region Executive Committee and other sessions including the facilitation of training classes.

In January, we set goals to increase the number of scholarships for youth campers to Shrine Mont for summer 2026 and to have a Region youth delegate for Convention in November. We achieved both goals by awarding eight full scholarships to our Region youths for Shrine Mont Camps in summer 2026, and we have two youth delegates for the 232nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

In February, an all-day Region Discernment Training Session led by the Reverend Deacons Deb Lockhart and Salli Hartman was held at Grace Church in Kilmarnock and very well attended.

In March, Region Presidents across the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia met with the Reverend Canon d'Rue Hazel for a fruitful meeting on "Regional Ministries: A Resource" and exploration on how we live into what God may be calling us to do in this moment. At our March Region meeting, our Region video committee led by Dennis Dalpino continued their initiative to increase our Region and Parish presence on streaming platforms including YouTube. This team presented "A Social Media Architecture for The Northern Neck Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia" for the Region's review and feedback.

In our May meeting, our Dean, the Very Reverend Willam Stafford-Whittaker, continued his outstanding leadership and strategic planning with the Region. Our introductory bible verse for the meeting was **Philippians 4:6-7a**: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Team member introductions were filled with the Holy Spirit through their inspiring stories and insight into this verse.

At our September meeting, we welcomed St. Mary’s Colonial Beach to the Northern Neck Region. In our initiative to increase awareness of the Outreach Ministries in our area, our program was presented by the United Ministries of Westmoreland County.



Figures 1 and 2: Pictures of the Region team at our March meeting at St. Mary’s Fleeton in Reedville and our September meeting at St. Paul’s in Nomin Grove

Our gratitude and best wishes are extended to the Reverend Kim Fox, the Reverend Deacon Deb Lockhart, and the Reverend Deacon Judi Thomas who moved from the area.

The Northern Neck Region congregations continued many successful outreach ministries this year, including the Regional Episcopal Youth Community (EYC), Yard Sales (year-round), Thrift Shops, Support for Local School Children and Teachers, Monthly Food Pantries, Market Days, Community Dinners, and many more. Special events and fellowship opportunities were hosted at our churches throughout the year, including Blessings of the Fleet, Oysters & Oldies,

Octoberfest, Celtic Walking, Strawberry Festival, Monthly “Friday Night Live” Entertainment, Celebration of St. Francis Month and Blessing of the Animals, Monthly FYI Northern Neck Lectures, “Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday, Homecomings, Bluegrass Sundays, and Lessons and Carols.

In closing, we share our Region prayer for all Regions across the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia:

O God, by your grace you have called us to a goodly fellowship of faith to be the Episcopal Church in the Regions of Virginia. Bless our Parishes, Laity, Clergy, Religious Orders, all Staff and Volunteers who work together in proclaiming the good news of God in Christ. Bless our Deans, our Presidents, and all who serve in roles of leadership within our Regions. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully Submitted by Linda Hutt, Northern Neck Region President