**R-1 CELEBRATION AND REPORTING OF GLOBAL MISSION EFFORTS BY VIRGINIA CONGREGATIONS**

**Resolved**, by the 232nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that Convention commend the March 2026 Covenant between the Diocese of Ezo, in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, and St. Francis Church in Great Falls, together with its call for the Covenant partners to pray for each other and their ministries, to exchange visits, and find ways to work together to carry out God's will and the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, as a model for similar mission relationships by Virginia congregations with Anglican dioceses and ministries outside the United States;

**Resolved,** that Convention commend St. Francis for its three decades of steadfast partnership and shared ministry with the Diocese of Ezo; and be it further

**Resolved** that Convention commend and celebrate similar long-standing partnerships by Virginia congregations with additional dioceses and ministries in Sudan and South Sudan since the late 1990s, through times of great tribulation for those countries, as well as similar partnerships by Virginia congregations with ministries in other provinces in the Anglican Communion, including Uganda, Guatemala, Tanzania, and South Africa, as well as with ministries in Episcopal Dioceses outside the United States, such as Honduras and Haiti; and be it further

**Resolved,** that congregations with current partnerships with ministries outside the United States make an updated report of these important efforts to the Global Mission Advocate by December 31, 2026 for compilation and publication on the Diocesan website by March 31, 2027 in order to aid in mutual support among our congregations in these ongoing mission efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Weston Mathews
St. Francis, Great Falls

Russell Randle
Lay Delegate
St. Mary's, Arlington

Diane Wright
Diocese of Virginia Global Mission Advocate (GMA)

The Rev. Nancy Searby
St. Francis, Great Falls and Co-GMA

**Rationale:** The March 2026 Covenant Document between the Diocese of Ezo and St. Francis, Great Falls, is attached. Virginia congregations have a robust history of engaging in God's global mission, and over the last thirty years, in addition to the Diocese of Ezo, these efforts have included partnerships with Diocese of Renk, in South Sudan, by St. Paul's, Alexandria, St. Mary's, Arlington, and Christ Church, Alexandria.

Anecdotal information suggests that there are many additional mission partnerships by our congregations with Anglican Dioceses and congregations outside the United States. This resolution celebrates these long-standing efforts and encourages our congregations to undertake new ones to pray for, learn about, and assist the work of our churches to carry out God's will. To that end, the resolution asks congregations to update the Global Mission Advocate with information on the current state of such partnerships, as well as reporting new initiatives. The information identifying specific ministries is intended for compilation and posting, along with appropriate information to facilitate contacts among congregations (within and outside our Diocese) to work together in such efforts in support of the 81st General Convention resolution A085 (Support the Global Mission Advocates Network). The Global Mission Advocate will coordinate with the Diocese to create a streamlined online reporting link.

# Covenant Between the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo, The Episcopal Church of South Sudan and St. Francis Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, The Episcopal Church in The United States of America, Both in the Anglican Communion

March 2026

We, the undersigned clergy and laity from St. Francis, Great Falls, in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, and the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo, South Sudan, give thanks for the meeting in Corscombe, England, on the 26th anniversary of our Covenant with each other. In joyful recognition of our 27-year relationship, we believe it is God's will that we renew, at this time, our Covenant with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In response to the faithful witness by the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo, led by Bishop Isaac Ephraim J. Bangisa, and the people of St. Francis Episcopal Church, led by the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, we covenant to pray for, learn about, and assist, as we are able, the work of our churches to carry out God's will. We also covenant to carry out the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, namely,

- proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- teach and nurture believers;
- respond to human need by loving service;
- transform unjust structures, challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation;
- and safeguard creation.

St. Francis will bring this renewed Covenant before the 232nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in 2026 and will ask the Convention to commend this Covenant for the prayerful consideration of people and parishes in the diocese. Bishop Isaac will bring this renewed Covenant before the 2026 General Synod of the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo for adoption.

Bishop Isaac has been in communication with St. Francis for the past five years since his enthronement in 2021. Ezo and St. Francis will continue to communicate regularly with each other and will strive to open further communications in the areas of education, evangelism, health, finance, Mothers' Union, youth, and sustainable development.

We pray that St. Francis sends another mission team to visit Ezo as occurred in 2013. We also pray that representatives of Ezo visit St. Francis again as occurred in 2018. We honor the importance of being in person for fellowship, prayer, and the deepening of mutual bonds of affection, wherever the meeting may occur.

We also give thanks for the hospitality of our hosts in Corscombe, Andrew and Celia Tomkins, members of the Ezo-Sherborne Deanery Churches Link.

All this we covenant and pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

The Rt. Rev. Isaac Ephraim J. Bangisa, Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Ezo, South Sudan

The Rev. Ueko Christopher, Secretary
The Episcopal Diocese of Ezo, South Sudan

The Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Priest-in-Charge
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, Virginia

Ms. Lynda Davis, Senior Warden
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, Virginia