R-4 Participation in Good Friday Offering

Resolved that this 232nd Convention of the Diocese of Virginia meeting in Fredericksburg, Virginia, November 5-7, 2026, urges all congregations of the Diocese of Virginia to participate annually in the Good Friday Offering for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, to become members of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), and to consider sponsoring pilgrimages to Israel through St. George's College in Jerusalem.

Explanation:
Supporting the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, where one of our former priests, The Rev. Canon Dr. Donald Binder, serves as Chaplain to Archbishop Hosam Naoum and Canon Pastor to the English-Speaking Congregation, allows us to assist in ministry to the Palestinian community.

The ministry of AFEDJ is dedicated to raising financial support for schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. Their mission is to transform the lives of vulnerable and displaced people in the region.

St George's College offers pilgrimages to the Holy Land that provide a transformative experience, and the ways pilgrims engage with the Land and its people are absolutely key. Their long history of organizing study pilgrimages and their deep roots in Israel/Palestine means that St George's College is an excellent choice for pilgrimages. They offer a varied range of study pilgrimages with different themes. For example: the Palestine of Jesus, the Footsteps of Jesus, Introduction to Biblelands, and Women of the Bible.

This resolution does not conflict with the Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church or of the Diocese of Virginia

This resolution has no financial impact on the Diocesan Budget.

Submitted by members of the Southern Shenandoah Valley Region

Ms. Roberta Arcand
Ms. Marcia Brownfield
The Very Rev. Peter Fraser-Morris
The Rev. Valerie Hayes
The Rev. Laura Minnich Lockey
The Rev. Kathleen Murray
The Rev. David Rose
The Rev. Cynthia Byers Walter
The Rev. Marian Windel