

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS  
TO THE 230<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**R-1 Resolution for More Welcoming and Inclusive Language for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

The Committee recommends the **adoption** of R-1 with the amendment, as follows, and recommends that R1a be placed on the Consent Agenda:

**R-1a Resolution for More Welcoming and Inclusive Language for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

Resolved, the Committee on Resolutions and the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution and Canons are directed by the 230<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia to review any language in any current or future resolutions or canons to change terminology referring to people with hearing loss from “deaf and hearing-impaired” to “deaf or hard of hearing.”

*Submitted by The Rev. Joe Hensley, St. George’s Fredericksburg*

*Ms. Beth Klein, St. George’s, Fredericksburg*

*As amended by the Resolutions Committee*

**COURTESY RESOLUTIONS**

**CR-1 Mr. John Robert “Bob” Thomas**

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-1 with the amendment, as follows, and recommends that CR-1a be placed on the Consent Agenda:

**CR-1a Mr. John Robert “Bob” Thomas**

**Whereas**, John Robert “Bob” Thomas, Lay Pastoral Leader, peacefully departed this life at his home and entered the nearer presence of God on March 11, 2023; and

**Whereas**, Bob Thomas was a devoted lay pastor, enjoying and engaging in God’s

Creation, sportsmanship, and the warm company of friends and family; and was a faithful missionary of our Lord Jesus Christ to everyone he met at church, at work, or even in the grocery store, and

**Whereas**, following his graduation from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg in 1967, Bob attended Virginia Polytechnic and State University, majoring in Forestry and Wildlife, graduating in 1972; and

**Whereas**, there Bob met and married his love, Kathryn Haney, to whom he was married for 52 years and 51 weeks; and

**Whereas**, with his wife, Kathryn, he raised five children, Sean, Emily, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Abraham, and was the beloved grandfather to his grandchildren, Galileo, Griffin, Lincoln, Eleanor, June, Robert, Hannah, Sophia, Lucy, and Tristan; and

**Whereas**, spending his career with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as an ornithologist, Bob paused at every visit to care for the needs and concerns of the farmers with whom he worked and always shared the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

**Whereas**, Bob served the smallest rural parishes in the Diocese from 1979 until a month before his final hospitalization in February of 2023, making sure that their voice and presence was known to the larger Body of Christ in the Diocese of Virginia; and

**Whereas**, Bob was installed as Lay Vicar in Charge by Bishop David Jones at Good Shepherd of the Hills in Boonesville, Albemarle County in 1996; and

**Whereas**, with the Rev. Janet McDonald, the Rev. Jane Piver, Bob Mares, and Ann Mingledorff, Bob served as a member of the Mountain Mission Team, which ministered to five small rural parishes in Albemarle and Page Counties; and

**Whereas**, Bob's model of service has been passed on to his entire family, including all his children and grandchildren, especially his granddaughter, Hannah Rees; and

**Whereas**, Bob Thomas was known by many in the Diocese of Virginia and in its Conventions as "Mountain Bob" for his dedication and service to the Mountain Missions; now

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the 230th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia gives thanks for the life and ministry of Robert “Bob” Thomas, and

**Be it further resolved** that a copy of this resolution be provided to his wife, The Rev. Deacon Kathryn Thomas, and that it be recorded in the minutes of the 230th Annual Convention.

*Submitted by the vestries of Grace, Stanardsville and Piedmont, Madison*

*As amended by the Resolutions Committee*

### **CR-2 Ms. Lynn Gray**

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-2 with the amendment, as follows, and recommends that CR-2a be placed on the Consent Agenda:

#### **CR-2a Ms. Lynn Gray**

**Whereas**, Lynn Gray, known to the camp community also as “Nurse Lynn”, commenced her ministry for The Diocese of Virginia as a camp nurse at Shrine Mont Camps in 2006; and

**Whereas**, Lynn Gray served the camp devotedly and passionately for 18 years as a recurring session nurse and a Nursing Coordinator. The Diocese recognizes the diligent, compassionate, and inclusive work Lynn Gray has provided to camp during this time. She shared her medical expertise with our program, setting forth best practices that have served the camp both during her tenure and well into the camp’s future. Her work included hiring session nurses, being a consultant for the Director of Shrine Mont Camp during the off-season, reviewing each of the over 400 camper medical forms, providing care during sessions to campers, talking with parents to develop treatment plans, staying up throughout the night to assist campers, making camp policy and more. We give specific thanks for Lynn’s counsel and work throughout a global pandemic wherein Shrine Mont Camp was able to run safe and effective programming a year out from its inception in 2021; and

**Whereas**, Lynn Gray went above and beyond her role as Nurse Coordinator, serving as a caretaker who soothed the anxieties of both parents and staff. Lynn has always operated as a source of unconditional love and acceptance amongst campers and staff and has often been a first point of contact for nervous parents. Lynn’s service often included assisting the camp in developing programming that

could appropriately and safely accommodate campers from all spaces, including those with mental health challenges, exceptional medical needs, family systems facing difficult moments, and more.

**Therefore, be it Resolved**, that the Diocese of Virginia appreciates and celebrates Lynn Gray's attention to our ever-evolving camp community. Lynn's compassion for others is ever-increasing, and Shrine Mont Camps benefited from her generous spirit during her tenure on the mountain.

*Submitted by the Bishops and staff of the Diocese of Virginia*

*As amended by the Resolutions Committee*