

Annual Report to the Diocese
Upper Tidewater Region
November 2024 - October 2025

To the Diocese:

The following is the Annual Report, November 2024 - October 2025, of the Upper Tidewater Region (UTR). This report traces our activity through the course of the year, beginning in November, as the Annual Convention of the Diocese is in November.

2024

November

Region President Mary Williams Montague and The Very Rev. Becky McDaniel, Dean, attended the Annual Convention in Fredericksburg.

December

Mary and Becky began planning our semi-annual gathering for February, 2025. Mary submitted a copy of our Annual Report for 2023-24 to the Ware Church Vestry (Mary's home parish).

On December 17, we formally elected The Rev. Theresa Brion (St. John's, Tappahannock), as our representative to the Executive Board. Mary sent this information to the Diocese.

2025

January

Mary and Becky completed plans for the February gathering.

February

Representatives from the Region as well as several additional parishioners from Region parishes met at St. Paul's, Miller's Tavern on February 15, for a presentation on the work of the Diocesan Truth and Reconciliation Task Force. Our Region representative from St. Paul's, Tom Howard, who had also served on the Task Force, and fellow Task Force member Jabriel Hassan of Richmond, led us in understanding the work of the Task Force and in a lively and interesting discussion. The representatives to the Region from St. Paul's also prepared a generous lunch, greatly enjoyed by all. Jabriel followed up our meeting with a reading list, which Mary sent out to the group.

At our February gathering, we also held an election for our alternate to the Executive Board. The Rev. Sven van Baars of Abingdon was duly elected to be the alternate; Mary sent this information to the Diocese.

March - June

In preparation for the annual meeting, Mary sent out requests for nominations. Treasurer Sharon Stone completed the budget. The Audit committee completed the annual audit.

July - August

The Region held our Annual Business meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, July 15. We employ a consent agenda, distributed ahead of time by the President, along with the related materials (slate of officers and audit committee, the proposed budget and the completed audit). During the meeting we elected our slate of officers for the Regional Council for 2025-26, and approved our budget and the audit. Mary sent the budget and the audit to the Diocese.

We began planning our second semi-annual gathering in October.

September

Our Regional Council leadership are working on two initiatives, for which we are forming a committee to bring forward proposals: (1) to draft a written policy around the use of our Region monies and (2) discerning the best use of our limited discretionary funds for the full benefit of all of our parishes, beyond that which covers our own operating expenses.

Additionally, and in response to queries from several of our representatives, our leadership made the decision to provide a "suggested amount" of annual giving to the Region from its member parishes. Following consultation with Dean Becky, Mary wrote to the Region representatives suggesting \$250 annually as a donation to the Region. Understanding that not every parish may be able to contribute \$250, this amount will help to provide for us all.

October

The UTR will hold our second semi-annual meeting on October 21 at Kingston Parish in Mathews. Mr. Lynn Ivey, Executive Director of the Trustees of the Funds (TotF), will present on the purpose and organization of the TotF. This presentation, at which members of parish finance committees have been encouraged to come hear directly from Mr. Ivey, is an example of how a Region-wide effort can provide beneficial opportunities beyond the resources of any one parish.

In summary, in 2024-25 the Upper Tidewater Region continued to build on the foundation we laid in 2023 when the Regional Council reconstituted the Region. Our lay and clergy representatives have come to know one another through our gatherings; now, we are positioned to move forward with planning collaborative projects that will benefit all the parishes of this widespread Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Williams Montague
Ware Church
President, Upper Tidewater Region
September 29, 2025