

Annual Report to the Diocese
Upper Tidewater Region
October 2025 - October 2026

To the Diocese:

The following is the Annual Report, October 2025 - October 2026, of the Upper Tidewater Region (UTR). This report traces our activity through the course of the year.

2025

October

The UTR held our second semi-annual meeting on October 21 at Kingston Parish in Mathews. Mr. Lynn Ivey, then Executive Director of the Trustees of the Funds (TotF, now VEIF), presented on the purpose and organization of the VEIF. The Executive Committee of the Region invited members of parish finance committees to attend in order to learn directly from Mr. Ivey how investing with VEIF can benefit constituent parishes. The meeting was well-attended and Mr. Ivey's presentation was well-received.

November

Region President Mary Williams Montague attended the Annual Convention in Fredericksburg.

December

- Mary and Becky began planning our semi-annual gathering for February, 2026. Mary submitted a copy of our Annual Report for 2024-25 to the Ware Church Vestry (Mary's home parish);
- Mary and Becky met via Zoom with the Rev. Sven vanBaars (Abingdon), Vice President Sharon Stone (Abingdon) and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Kye Price (now the Canon for Vocations and Clergy Wellness), to present for her approval a new Region initiative, the "Rural Seminarian Internship" based in our region's parishes, with the aim of supporting priests in becoming familiar with rural parish ministry. Canon Price approved our plan to present it to the Region.

2026

February

- The Region held our Spring meeting at Abingdon Episcopal Church in Gloucester. The Rev. Sven vanBaars and Vice President Sharon Stone presented the Rural Seminarian Internship proposal for Regional Council approval. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the plan.. Mary established a subcommittee to create a detailed proposal;
- Mary established a subcommittee to draft an investment policy statement for the Region.

June

Mary and Becky took two decisions around the administration of the Region:

- moved the Annual Business meeting to the same date as the Fall meeting;
- Shifted the Region's fiscal calendar from the fiscal year to the calendar year, to be in line with that of the Diocese

October

The UTR will hold our second semi-annual meeting October 27, 2026, via Zoom. This meeting was to be an in-person meeting earlier in October, but clergy conflicts dictated a rescheduling. At this meeting, we will:

- Vote in a slate of officers (President, Vice-President/Sec'y, Treasurer
- Approve our 2025-26 audit
- Approve two budgets:
 - A revised 2025-26 budget to carry us from June 30 - December 31, 2026;
 - A budget for 2027 beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31, 2027;
- Vote to approve our investment policy statement;
- Hear from the Rural Seminarian Internship committee on next steps in this project.

In summary, in 2025-26 the Upper Tidewater Region continued with education for our parish representatives and also created a ground-breaking new project that seeks to address some of the unique needs of our Region and which will also benefit all of our parishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Williams Montague

Ware Church
President, Upper Tidewater Region
October 16, 2026