

**Resolution to Name St. Anna Ellison Butler Alexander,
Deaconess, the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Georgia**

202nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

November 9 - 11, 2023, Augusta, GA

Whereas, Deaconess Anna Ellison Butler Alexander (1865-1947) has been recognized as a saint by the Diocese of Georgia since 1998 and by the General Convention of The Episcopal Church since 2018, her feast day celebrated on September 24; having served the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia despite the persecution and hardships she faced during the Jim Crow era; having founded Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Pennick in 1894 and Good Shepherd Episcopal School in Pennick in 1902; having been set aside by Bishop C. K. Nelson as the first and only Black Deaconess in the history of The Episcopal Church in 1907; and having tirelessly and devotedly taught, led services, cared for the poor and elderly, and inspired young people with hope for six decades; *and*

Whereas, In 2019, the Diocese of Georgia established Deaconess Alexander as the patron saint of the new Chapel in its Diocesan Offices; *and*

Whereas, In 2019, Bishop Scott A. Benhase and the Diocese of Georgia established the St. Anna Alexander Center for Racial Reconciliation & Healing, based in Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and Schoolhouse; *and*

Whereas, The faithful life and witness of St. Anna Alexander continues to inspire the work of diocesan ministries like Racial Justice Georgia today; *and*

Whereas, The Book of Common Prayer establishes, “The feast of the Dedication of a Church, and the feast of its patron or title, may be observed on, or be transferred to, a Sunday, except in the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter” (p. 16); **therefore, be it**

Resolved, That this 202nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia recognizes St. Anna Ellison Butler Alexander, Deaconess and Teacher, as the patron saint of this Diocese; *and be it further*

Resolved, That this gives every congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia the express permission to observe the Feast of St. Anna Alexander, with its assigned Collect and Scripture readings as set forth by the most recent Episcopal calendar of saints (i.e., *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022*) every year on the Sunday closest to September 24; *and be it further*

Resolved, That the Diocese will promote and encourage all parishes and/or convocations to celebrate the Feast of St. Anna Alexander every year; *and be it further*

Resolved, That the Diocese urges all congregations, especially endowed parishes, to take up a special collection and/or commit to an annual contribution to support the ministry of the St. Anna Alexander Center for Reconciliation & Healing and the preservation of the historic Good Shepherd Episcopal Schoolhouse every year on the Sunday closest to September 24.

Presented to the Convention by the members of Racial Justice Georgia.