



Kindle
our hearts
and awaken
hope



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

3:30 - 5 PM **Check In** Our Savior Episcopal Church 4227 Columbia Rd Augusta, GA 30907
5:30 PM **Evening Prayer** Our Savior Episcopal Church 4227 Columbia Rd Augusta, GA 30907
Officiant *The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue*
Preacher *The Very Rev. Al Crumpton*

Dinner with your delegation on your own

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8-9 AM **Continental Breakfast provided**
Check In Church of the Good Shepherd 2230 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30904
9 AM **Morning Devotions**
Welcome and Consent Agenda The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue
If, when called for, no motion and second call for a vote to remove any item from the consent agenda, all of the following are passed with a single vote:

- The Convention Agenda as printed in the booklet
- Canon Easterlin to be made Secretary of Convention.
- Daniel Garrick, Maggie Lyons, and Liz Williams to be made Assistants to the Secretary
- Rules of Order for debate

Morning Business Session

USE HASHTAG #DIOGA202 ON SOCIAL MEDIA

See the convention website <https://gaepiscopal.org/convention2023> for the latest presentations, reports, and updated information.

- 10:40 AM **Break**
- Business Session**
- Noonday Devotions**
- 12 Noon **Lunch**
Clergy group photo at the start of the lunch break
- 1 PM **Afternoon Business Session**
- 4:30 PM **Convention Eucharist at Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church** 605 Reynolds St. Augusta, GA 30901
Celebrant *The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue*
Preacher *Dr. Lisa Kimball*
- 6:00 PM **Reception and Screening of “The Philadelphia Eleven”** 605 Reynolds St. Augusta, GA 30901

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- 7:30 AM **Eucharist** Chapel of the Resurrection at Church of the Good Shepherd
Celebrant *The Rev. Joe Bowden*
Preacher *The Rev. Ted Clarkson*
- 8-9 AM **Continental Breakfast provided**
- 8 - 9 AM **Clergy Spouse Breakfast** Church of the Good Shepherd
- 9 AM **Morning Devotions**
- 9 AM **Business Session**
- 11:45 AM **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

NOMINEES

CHURCH DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Previously known as “The Ecclesiastical Trial Court,” the Disciplinary Board of the Diocese of Georgia is vested with jurisdiction to hear and determine all proceedings in which a priest or deacon has been charged with one or more offense specified in the canons of the Episcopal Church. It meets only when necessary. The person elected at the 2023 Diocesan Convention will serve through Convention 2026.
Elect two lay persons and two deacons or priests.



The Rev. Susan C. Gage, LMT
St. Barnabas,
Valdosta

The Rev. Susan Gage serves part-time as the Priest-in-Charge at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in

Valdosta. Her other ministry is as a licensed massage therapist in Tallahassee, Florida, where she lives with her wife, Isabelle. A native of New Hampshire, she is a fan of all New England professional sports teams and enjoys listening to music and writing and performing with the Mickee Faust Club, a cabaret theater troupe. She started her professional life as a reporter, producer, and host at WFSU-FM and Florida Public Radio, where she covered state politics and the Florida Supreme Court. She serves on the diocesan Commission on Worship and is a member of the Racial Justice Georgia group. She is passionate about social justice, and takes to heart the mission of Jesus as found in Luke 4:18: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.”



The Rev. Samantha McKean
Christ Church,
Savannah

The Rev. Samantha McKean is open to election to the Disciplinary Board because

she cares deeply about the safety of the Church and the wellbeing of its clergy, and because she is eager to be of help to the Diocese. She would seek to serve with openheartedness, humility, moral clarity, and an abiding hope in God’s ability to heal and make whole. She currently serves as the Senior Associate Rector at Christ Church, Savannah, where she has been for six years. She has been an Episcopalian since 2012 and was ordained in 2019. She currently serves on the Commission on Ministry. This would be her first elected position.



Peter Kastner
St. Peter's, Savannah

Peter Kastner would be pleased and honored to serve the bishop on the Disciplinary Board. He acted as a trusted advisor to numerous technology executives in the course of a forty year career.

He understands the severity of the cases and issues brought before the board, and is prepared to deal with them forthrightly and in concert with fellow board members. Peter is a cradle Episcopalian. He has served on Vestries in four parishes. After retirement, he accomplished seven missions to Hispaniola, mostly building infrastructure for orphanages in Haiti. Peter joined St Peters after moving to Savannah seven years ago. He is presently senior warden and was parish treasurer. He is or has served on the St. Peter’s endowment board, finance committee, pastoral care, LEM, meals ministry, and chair of the HVAC renovation project. This is his second diocesan convention as a delegate.

BOARD OF THE CORPORATION

Members of the Board of Officers are charged with the oversight of the investments and disbursements of those funds entrusted to it through wills, deeds, and other trust instruments. The Board meets quarterly. The person elected at the 2023 Diocesan Convention will serve through Convention 2030.

Elect one lay person.

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Whit Davis Christ Church, Savannah

Whit Davis would like to serve on the Board on Corporation, so that he can use his professional experience to serve the Diocese of Georgia. In his professional

life, he works with families and non-profits (including foundations and endowments) to guide their financial decisions and help them steward their financial resources. He believes that his role as an investment professional will be an asset to the corporation and its decision-making process. He and his wife relocated to Savannah in January 2021 and joined Christ Church upon arrival. He serves as an usher and he and his wife are leading the 2023 Stewardship campaign. He also serves on the Diocesan Finance committee and as a lay Trustee for Sewanee. Prior to moving to Savannah, the Davis' were active members of St. Anne's in Atlanta.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The responsibilities of Diocesan Council are to carry out the policies, programs and directions of Convention; to deal with contingencies as they arise; and to assist the Bishop in developing the ministry of the Diocese. It carries out the duties of Convention between Conventions. Council generally meets in various parts of the Diocese. The person elected at the 2023 Diocesan Convention will serve through Convention 2026.

Elect one lay person, deacon or priest.

TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

The board meets in Sewanee, TN, early in October each year. The two laypersons and one priest who serve on the board from the Diocese of Georgia are to represent the university to the diocese. This year, convention will elect one clergy person for a three-year term to serve through Convention 2026.

Elect one clergy person.



The Very Rev. Tom Purdy Christ Church, Frederica

The Very Rev. Tom Purdy would be honored to serve another term, if elected, as a Sewanee Trustee on behalf of the Diocese of Georgia. He has enjoyed being a small part of the University's leadership structures and has a

great deal of hope for her mission and her future. He is a proud alumnus of Sewanee, a current student in the Advanced Degree program, and hopes to have a child enrolled in the fall. He has been active in the Episcopal church at all levels since his childhood. He has served as the Rector at Christ Church, Frederica on St. Simons Island since 2013. Previously he served as an Associate Rector for three years in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, and as Rector in the Diocese of Washington for five years. Within the Diocese of GA he currently serves as Dean of the Southeast Convocation. In previous dioceses he has served on Diocesan Council, Diocesan Youth Commission (chair), Diocesan HR Committee (chair), and various task forces. In a previous diocese he served as a CDI and Shape of the Parish trainer. Within the local community in Glynn County he currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Hospice of the Golden Isles. He also serves as Vice President of Alivia Care of Georgia, a non-profit umbrella organization for non-profit hospices in Georgia. He continues to champion causes of justice and equality in Glynn County through various organizations.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee is the Bishop's Council of Advice. In the absence of a bishop, the Standing Committee acts as the Ecclesiastical Authority for those purposes declared by General Convention. The Standing Committee must approve all ordinations and any financial indebtedness of parishes. It usually meets four times a year at the same time as the Commission on Ministry and in various locations throughout the diocese.

Persons elected will serve a four-year term through Convention 2027. Elect one lay person and one clergy person.

NOMINEES



Lisa Gibbs **St. Anne's, Tifton**

Lisa Gibbs is honored to be nominated for the Standing Committee. She is a “cradle Episcopalian” who loves her church’s traditions and understands the importance of preserving those traditions

while working for the future of the church itself in the Diocese of Georgia and the greater church. In her 30+ years at St. Anne’s she has taught Sunday School, been a lay reader, volunteered in the nursery, participated in the food ministry, was an enthusiastic participant in “foyer groups” (small monthly dinner gatherings) as well as a convener of the foyer groups, sung for short seasonal stints in the choir, raised two acolytes through high school graduation, with her share of driving to and from Honey Creek and other events with the children, and has generally done whatever she saw to do, to support the local parish. She is a 2023 graduate of the EFM program. She recently attended the Anna Alexander Pilgrimage on the coast. Her career has been as an attorney; the last 25 years as the child support attorney for the Tifton Judicial Circuit, and she continues to do legal work for the local Juvenile Court. In her professional capacity, she has developed an understanding that it is always wiser to listen carefully and consider the interests at stake before coming to a conclusion. She looks forward to working with Rev. David Rose and supporting and advising Bishop Frank Logue.



The Very Rev. Al Crumpton **Our Savior Episcopal Church, Martinez**

The Very Rev. Al Crumpton, IV is currently serving as the dean of the Augusta Convocation and rector of Our Savior Episcopal Church located in the Augusta

suburb of Martinez. In his role as convocation dean, Al also serves as a non-voting member of the Diocesan Council. With the exception of the years

Al and his wife Valerie lived in Sewanee, TN while attending seminary at the University of the South, Al has lived in various parts of the Diocese of Georgia his entire life. Born and raised in Americus, Al attended kindergarten at Calvary Episcopal Church as a child and returned to Calvary in 2002 as an active and engaged parishioner. Al served in lay leadership positions at Calvary Americus, which is in the Albany Convocation. After seminary, Al served in the Southeast Convocation in ordained ministry at St. Mark’s Brunswick, and King of Peace Kingsland before being called to his current role in the Augusta Convocation at Our Savior Martinez. His roles in three of the six convocations in the Diocese of Georgia have given him a beneficial perspective of ministry successes and challenges throughout the diocese in rural and urban settings. In addition to serving as the president of the Standing Committee during the election of the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Georgia, Al’s previous roles have included serving as the chairperson of the Southeast Convocation Discernment Committee, and as a member of the Cursillo Commission. Al is excited about the possibility of serving another term on the Standing Committee that supports the Diocese of Georgia and its parishes as the church moves forward into the future.



The Rev. June Johnson

The Rev. June Johnson sees serving on the Standing Committee as the opportunity use the skills learned in a lifetime of church work. When she was 9 years old, she and her parents became members of a start-up church in Albany, GA.

Her parents took leadership

roles in the formation of the congregation and, as an only child, she attended every business meeting, every Bible study or worship service the parents attended. She watched the building and the congregation grow throughout her childhood and teens. She joined the Episcopal Church in 1990, received her M. Div from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and was ordained as a priest in 2009. She has served 3 churches in the Diocese of Georgia. She graduated

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with the first CDI class in 2012, and has been a trainer for CDI/LWG for about 8 years. She has completed 4 years of EFM and has served as a Mentor for 5 years. She has served as the Diocesan Chaplain for both Episcopal Church Women and Daughters of the King, and has recently been admitted as a member of DOK. She has served as the Convocation Convener for Discernment committees, and on the Diocesan Council. In addition, she is an active member of Racial Justice GA within the Diocese. After becoming an Episcopalian, she was certified in Mediation by the Settlement Institute, trained in Prejudice Reduction by the National Coalition Building Institute, and certified as a Police Chaplain by the Georgia Association of Law Enforcement Chaplains. For the last 7 years, she has been active in MLKTybee Human Rights Organization and in Forever Tybee (FT works for transparency in local government). She counts herself blessed to have had all these experiences, and intend to work hard to make use of her skills, talents and prayers to benefit the Diocese and our work for our God.

Leading Women, a conference of and for women clergy in The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Church of Canada discerning vocations to higher leadership in the church. His early years of ministry were shaped by his work with Jerusalem Peacebuilders, a non-profit interfaith educational program bringing together Israeli, Palestinian, and American teens in pursuit of friendship & understanding for peace. He is both delighted and mortified that you may remember him from his dance floor debut with Bishop Logue at the 2021 Convention .



**The Rev. David
Wantland
St. Peter's, Savannah**

The Rev. David Wantland is honored to be nominated to serve on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Georgia. A relative newcomer, David has appreciated the collegiality and

mission of this diocese and, born of that appreciation, he is enthusiastic to serve the diocese however he can. David is passionate about ministerial discernment and currently exercises that passion on one of the diocese's convocational discernment committees. Ordained in 2017, David served for four years in Houston, Texas, before moving in 2021 with his husband, Colby, to work as Associate Rector at Saint Peter's, Savannah. David is 2015 graduate of Duke Divinity School and a 2017 graduate of Seminary of the Southwest. During that time, he worked as a lay ministry coordinator, sacristan, bishop's driver, seminary dishwasher, and however else he could serve the church. Particularly formed by the leadership of women clergy, David was honored to work as administrative assistant for



RESOLUTION TO NAME ST. ANNA ELLISON BUTLER ALEXANDER, DEACONESS, THE PATRON SAINT OF THE DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

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.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE THE COMPANION DIOCESE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DIOCESE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Whereas, the Diocese of Georgia and the Diocese of the Dominican Republic have mutually benefitted from a Companion Diocese relationship; *and*

Whereas a Task Group of Diocesan Council undertook a study of companion diocese relationships and the challenges and opportunities in continuing with this relationship or starting a new one and did recommend a renewed commitment to a companion diocese relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; *and*

Whereas the Diocesan Council meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church in Cochran on September 30 of this year did unanimously endorse renewing our commitment to being in a Companion Diocese relationship with the Diocese of Georgia;

Therefore, be it resolved that the 202nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia meeting at Episcopal Day School in Augusta, Georgia, does approve of the Bishop Diocesan sign an agreement with the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Dominican Republic entering into a five-year agreement for the years 2024-2028, that is intended to be reviewed and may be renewed during that time.

Submitted by the Diocesan Council Companion Diocese Task Group.

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CONVENTION REPORTS BOARD OF THE CORPORATION

The Board of the Corporation oversees 37 individual funds established and invested for various purposes in the Diocese of Georgia. They are managed through Private Bank of Bank of America. The Diocesan Convention elects the members of the BOC for a 7-year term. They review the portfolio performance to set a recommended spend rate to preserve long-term assets and encourage using income for growth and ministry in the Diocese. 2022 was a volatile investment year due to several global and market factors. The portfolio closed with a total valuation of \$11,639,008 as of December 31st, 2022. Down from \$13,760,462 in 2021 and demonstrates a loss of 14.9% net of fees. Even with the downturn in investments, looking across the longer-term performance of the portfolio, the board voted to maintain a 4% spend rate for 2023. One new fund was added in 2021. The Holy Cross Episcopal Church Endowment Fund was established with the sale proceeds of the church to support the existing congregation to maintain their services and rent a nearby Catholic church. Interest in the Board of the Corporation remains high. If you'd like to learn more about the process, don't hesitate to contact Canon Easterlin.

Katie Easterlin
Canon for Administration

CHANCELLOR

During 2022, I served the Diocesan Convention in Savannah as Parliamentarian and Chancellor to the Bishop. I also attended some of the meetings of Diocesan Council held since that Convention in November 2022. I provided general legal advice and counsel to Bishop Logue, the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Staff on an as needed basis. I also provided legal advice to a number of parishes in the Diocese regarding routine legal matters and bylaws revisions and also consulted with a number of parish clergy and vestries regarding matters of concern to them under the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Georgia.

The Rev. Jim Elliott
Chancellor

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

At the close of last year's convention report, I noted that the members of the Commission would soon be meeting "in person" with aspirants at Honey Creek. And we did! Relishing holy hours spent face to face with individuals discerning their vocation in the Body of Christ.

Zoom, however, continued to serve us well for several candidacy interviews, and allowed me to attend online meetings with other Province IV chairmen of Commissions of Ministry. Moderated by Mr. Eugene Johnston, Chairman of the Diocese of Central Gulf Coast's Commission on Ministry, these meetings grew out of a province meeting in New Orleans in January of 2021, an occasion emphasizing the need for greater collaboration across dioceses in what we all know to be a season of remarkable change in the life of the Church.

Our membership remained a stable gift with one grace-filled change: this year the chair of our Examining Chaplains, the Rev. Melanie Lemburg (St. Thomas, Savannah), also served as a member of the Interview Committee. Other members serving on the Interview Committee were the Rev. Terri Deghenhardt (St. Augustine of Canterbury, Augusta), Dr. M.J. Harris (Christ Church, Savannah), Dr. Drew Keane (St. John's, Savannah), the Rev. Deacon Ridenour Lamb (St. John & St. Mark's, Albany), the Rev. Samantha McKean (Christ Church, Savannah), Dr. Fred Richter (Trinity, Statesboro), and Ms. Elizabeth Varner (Epiphany, Savannah). Serving with Melanie as Examining Chaplains were the Rev. Ian Lasch (St. Francis, Savannah), the Rev. Kelly Steele (St. Peter's, Savannah), and the Rev. Helen White (Christ Church, Savannah). Our chaplains and interviewers have been a faithful and long-serving gift to the diocese.

For almost three years, I have been the newbie, and have thus relied heavily on the deeper experience of my colleagues in this work. I will be passing the baton on to a new chair in the coming year. Term limits are a healthy gift to all of us, most especially when, like me, you're sure you've done your best yet are also

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aware your gifts may not be those needed to meet what comes next. I share below a brief summary of the holy work we entered into since last convention reporting, from late 2022 until now.

After meeting at Honey Creek for postulancy interviews, we recommended to the Bishop that the following aspirants be made postulants for the priesthood: Mr. Brandon Medley (St. Anne's, Tifton), Mr. Jim Strickland (St. Luke's, Hawkinsville), and Mr. Ethan White (Christ Church, Savannah).

After meeting online for candidacy interviews, we certified to the Bishop that the following postulants had made sufficient progress in their studies to be made candidates for ordination: Dr. Bertice Berry (Christ Church, Savannah) as a vocational deacon, Ms. Becky Dorrell (Christ Church, Frederica) as a vocational deacon, and Ms. Shelley Martin (St. Augustine of Canterbury, Augusta) as transitional deacon (moving toward priesthood).

After meeting at Honey Creek for ordination interviews, we certified to the Bishop and members of the Standing Committee that the following candidates had met the canonical requirements for Holy Orders and recommended they be ordained: Ms. Shayna Cranford (Trinity, Cochran) as a transitional deacon (moving toward priesthood), Ms. Noelle Raiford (Trinity, Statesboro) as a vocational deacon, Mr. Casey Perkins (Thankful Memorial, Chattanooga) as a vocational deacon; and Mr. Gabriel Lawrence (St. Patrick's, Albany) as a transitional deacon (moving toward priesthood).

I speak for all convocational discernment committees that nourish the Body of Christ in our diocese when I say we are thankful for all aspirants who lean into the mystery of vocation and grant us the privilege of listening to their stories. If you are leaning in that direction, I encourage you to speak to your parish priest.

The Rev. Lauren Flowers Byrd
Chair, Commission on Ministry

COMPANION DIOCESE

A Pause in Working With Our Amigos and Compañeros in the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic:

In most respects, this has been a pause year in the 23-year-old relationship between the Companion Diocese of Georgia and La Iglesia Episcopal de la Republica Dominicana. While lingering effects and concerns for the global COVID-19 pandemic again forced churches, schools and mission teams to cancel most mission trips in 2023, a specially appointed committee has been assessing the value and future of the relationship.

The committee recommended that the relationship be continued, but with these caveats: there will be a review of the program periodically and that there be immediate emphasis on enriching and expanding the relationship, particularly in ways that enhance the understanding in Georgia of the people and the church in the Dominican Republic. The committee recommendations were presented to the Diocesan Council at its September 30 meeting and approved.

First, the History

For 23 years, the relationship has provided both physical and spiritual growth for all. Mission teams from Georgia have helped build and furnish churches and schools, they've painted and landscaped school and church properties, updated campgrounds, conducted vacation bible school in English and Spanish, provided health care, built water purification systems and a bakery, led farming projects and improved the vision of families, children and the elderly. During the pandemic, Georgia Diocesan churches collected and distributed 14,000 masks to the Dominican Republic.

Georgia mission teams include people of all ages including groups of teenagers from across the Diocese and retirees. It is a rich relationship that has brought parishioners and churches in Georgia and the Dominican Republic especially close.

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The Current Review

The pandemic disruption provided an opportunity to review the Companion Diocese relationship. At Bishop Logue's request, a special committee was created and tasked with exploring two questions: 1) Should we continue this relationship? Continuing with the DR is always an option. And 2) If we want to change, what do we hope will be possible that is not possible now?

In the committee deliberations, concerns were voiced about the aspirational two-way nature of the relationship. In particular, the committee asked how we could make our relationship less one-sided. This concern was addressed by Christy Wallace, the Dominican Development Group Executive Director who spoke of ways to further enrich our relationship and address the balance. They include scholarships, clean water and sanitation projects and medical care as well as construction and repair. Another committee concern was the lack of diversity and the exclusion of marginalized groups among the Dominican clergy by Bishop Moises Quezada. Bishop Frank spoke with Bishop Moises who assured +Frank that he and the church in the Dominican Republic would be more inclusive of all groups in the future. The committee noted progress in this effort.

The Committee concluded that the Diocese of Georgia and the Dominican Republic have sought to strengthen each other in ministry and mission through the past 23 years, and seen much success. But there is much more work of giving and receiving to be done by both. Its recommendation to continue the relationship was approved by the Diocesan Council on September 30.

The Church in the Dominican Republic today

We are now poised to revitalize the Companion relationship between the Dioceses of Georgia and La Iglesia Episcopal de la Republica Dominicana. 'After the global COVID-19 pandemic struck both countries, forcing churches, schools and mission teams to cancel almost all mission trips since early 2020, the evidence is clear today that our 23-year-old

relationship is back in business.

We start by celebrating the accomplishments of the Diocese of Santo Domingo, which last year passed the 125th anniversary of its formation. The first Episcopalians arrived from St. Croix to work the sugar cane fields around San Pedro de Macoris 150 years ago and quickly organized their worship. They established a diocese in 1897. In 1922, they organized their first school, el Colegio de San Esteban in San Pedro de Macoris. It is still thriving at age 100 as a K-12 school today.

Bishop Moises Quezada Mota reports that the 56 churches across the nation are resuming activities delayed during the pandemic and that the 26 schools have enrolled nearly 8,000 students. The Diocese also manages two conference centers and a two-year-old home for the elderly. The pandemic proved the value of its health clinic. Importantly, vaccines were available in the Dominican Republic earlier than in the United States and were mandatory. The per capita rate of Covid cases and deaths in the Dominican Republic is one-sixth that of the state of Georgia. The population of both is approximately 10 million.

U.S. Mission activity has been slow to resume despite the easing of the Pandemic. Ten mission teams are now scheduled for trips to the Dominican Republic in 2023. Churches in Augusta and Isle of Hope have engaged in preliminary discussions. St. Peter's in Savannah has scheduled the return of its eye mission for next February, although it is providing scholarship help for high school students and financing and scholarship for an optometry student this year.

The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Dominican Republic

The Diocese of the Dominican Republic is a member of The Episcopal Church's Province IX along with the Dioceses of Colombia, Central Ecuador, Litoral Ecuador, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. Mission teams from the United States working alongside Episcopal congregations in the Dominican Republic have helped to build and fund many of the

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ongoing construction projects, social welfare centers, and school programs of the Dominican diocese. The Diocese now includes 60 churches, 22 schools and two health clinics. The Rt. Rev. Moises Quezada Mota became bishop of the diocese in 2018.

Funding Mission Work in the Dominican Republic

The Diocese of Georgia maintains a special vantage point, stemming from the Companion relationship we in Georgia have had with Episcopalians in the Dominican Republic for 23 years — a period of both physical and spiritual growth for all.

The Diocese of Georgia allocated \$10,000 in its 2023 budget to support the work of the Dominican Development Group (DDG). Bishop Logue and his designated representative are members of the DDG Board of Directors. The DDG is a consortium of the ten dioceses (Central Gulf Coast, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Georgia, Nebraska, Northwest Texas, The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida and Western Louisiana) with companion relationships with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. The DDG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization within the Episcopal Church that coordinates the work of all of the companion dioceses to help the Diocese of the Dominican Republic strengthen its programs and maintain financial self-sufficiency.

The DDG assists the U.S. mission teams traveling to the Dominican Republic and raises funds for the DR diocesan endowment. Beyond that, costs of our dynamic relationship with our Dominican Episcopal partners are borne by parishes and individuals that choose to contribute their time and labor and/or their financial resources to projects chosen for mission teams.

The Companion Diocese Commission

The Companion Diocese Commission of the Diocese of Georgia coordinates the work of our diocesan mission teams and publicizes their work. The members of the Commission are the leaders of the

mission teams within the diocese. Co-chairs are Jim and Haydee Toedtman (St. Peter's, Skidaway Island). Their first DR mission trip was with St. Peter's Gift of Sight mission in 2014. They joined an exploration trip visiting schools and churches along the south coast in November 2019. They have attended DDG board meetings since 2019. The Commission and the mission team leaders work closely with Bishop Moises, with the Mission Team Support Office of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic and with the Dominican Development Group.

Importantly, the search for new teams to join this effort is ongoing. Opportunities are limited only by our imaginations, but already range from scholarships and a "Walk for Water" to construction of new churches. If you or your church has an interest, or to contact the Commission, or Christy Wallace at the Dominican Development Group (cwallace@dominicandevdevelopmentgroup.org). Or contact Jim Toedtman (jstoedtman@gmail.com); or Haydee Toedtman (hstoedtman@gmail.com).

Dos Países, La Misma Iglesia: ¡echemos otro vistazo!

Una pausa en el trabajo con nuestros amigos y compañeros en la Diócesis Episcopal de la República Dominicana:

En muchos aspectos, este ha sido un año de pausa en la relación de 23 años entre la Diócesis Compañera de Georgia y La Iglesia Episcopal de la República Dominicana. Si bien los efectos persistentes y las preocupaciones por la pandemia mundial de COVID-19 obligaron nuevamente a las iglesias, escuelas y equipos misioneros a cancelar la mayoría de los viajes misioneros en 2023, un comité especialmente designado ha estado evaluando el valor y el futuro de la relación. Las conclusiones de ese comité debían ser presentadas al Consejo Diocesano en su reunión del 30 de septiembre.

El comité recomendó que la relación continuara, pero con estas salvedades: habrá una revisión del programa periódicamente y que se hará hincapié inmediatamente en enriquecer y ampliar la relación, particularmente en formas que mejoren la comprensión en Georgia del

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pueblo y la iglesia en la República Dominicana. Las recomendaciones del comité fueron presentadas al Consejo Diocesano en su reunión del 30 de septiembre y aprobadas.

Primero, la historia

Durante 23 años, la relación ha proporcionado crecimiento físico y espiritual para todos. Los equipos misioneros de Georgia han ayudado a construir y equipar iglesias y escuelas, han pintado y diseñado jardines en las propiedades de escuelas e iglesias, han actualizado los campamentos, han llevado a cabo una escuela bíblica de vacaciones en inglés y español, han brindado atención médica, han construido sistemas de purificación de agua y una panadería, han dirigido la agricultura proyectos y mejoró la visión de familias, niños y personas mayores. Durante la pandemia, las iglesias diocesanas de Georgia recolectaron y distribuyeron 14.000 máscaras en la República Dominicana.

Los equipos misioneros de Georgia incluyen personas de todas las edades, incluidos grupos de adolescentes de toda la Diócesis y jubilados. Es una relación rica que ha acercado especialmente a los feligreses y las iglesias de Georgia y la República Dominicana.

La revisión actual

La interrupción de la pandemia brindó la oportunidad de revisar la relación con la Diócesis Compañera. A petición del obispo Logue, se creó un comité especial al que se le asignó la tarea de explorar dos preguntas: 1) ¿Deberíamos continuar esta relación? Continuar con RD siempre es una opción. Y 2) Si queremos cambiar, ¿qué esperamos que sea posible que no sea posible ahora?

En las deliberaciones del comité, se expresaron preocupaciones sobre la aspiracional naturaleza bidireccional de la relación. En particular, el comité preguntó cómo podríamos hacer que nuestra relación sea menos unilateral. Esta preocupación fue abordada por Christy Wallace, directora ejecutiva del Grupo Dominicano de Desarrollo, quien habló de formas

de enriquecer aún más nuestra relación y abordar el equilibrio. Incluyen becas, proyectos de agua potable y saneamiento y atención médica, así como construcción y reparación. Otra preocupación del comité fue la falta de diversidad y la exclusión de grupos marginados entre el clero dominicano por parte del obispo Moisés Quezada.

El obispo Frank habló con el obispo Moisés, quien le aseguró a +Frank que él y la iglesia en la República Dominicana serían más inclusivos con todos los grupos en el futuro. El comité observó avances en este esfuerzo.

El Comité concluyó que la Diócesis de Georgia y la República Dominicana han buscado fortalecerse mutuamente en el ministerio y la misión durante los últimos 23 años, y han tenido mucho éxito. Pero hay mucho más trabajo de dar y recibir que ambos deben hacer. Su recomendación de continuar la relación fue aprobada por el Consejo Diocesano el 30 de septiembre.

La iglesia de la Republica Dominicana hoy

Ahora estamos preparados para revitalizar la relación de Compañía entre las Diócesis de Georgia y La Iglesia Episcopal de la República Dominicana. Después de que la pandemia mundial de COVID-19 azotó a ambos países, obligando a iglesias, escuelas y equipos misioneros a cancelar casi todos los viajes misioneros desde principios de 2020, hoy la evidencia es clara de que nuestra relación de 23 años ha vuelto a funcionar.

Comenzamos celebrando los logros de la Diócesis de Santo Domingo, que el año pasado cumplió 125 años de su formación. Los primeros episcopales llegaron de St. Croix para trabajar en los campos de caña de azúcar alrededor de San Pedro de Macorís hace 150 años y rápidamente organizaron su culto. Establecieron una diócesis en 1897. En 1922 organizaron su primera escuela, el Colegio de San Esteban en San Pedro de Macorís. Todavía está prosperando a los 100 años como escuela K-12 en la actualidad.

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El obispo Moisés Quezada Mota informa que las 56 iglesias de todo el país están reanudando las actividades retrasadas durante la pandemia y que las 26 escuelas han inscrito a casi 8.000 estudiantes. La Diócesis también gestiona dos centros de conferencias y un hogar para ancianos que funciona desde hace dos años. La pandemia demostró el valor de su clínica de salud. Es importante destacar que las vacunas estuvieron disponibles en la República Dominicana antes que en Estados Unidos y eran obligatorias. La tasa per cápita de casos y muertes por Covid en la República Dominicana es una sexta parte de la del estado de Georgia. La población de ambos es de aproximadamente 10 millones.

La actividad de la Misión de Estados Unidos ha tardado en reanudarse a pesar del alivio de la pandemia. Ahora están programados diez equipos misioneros para viajar a la República Dominicana en 2023. Las iglesias en Augusta y Isle of Hope han entablado discusiones preliminares. St. Peter's en Savannah ha programado el regreso de su misión ocular para el próximo febrero, aunque este año está brindando ayuda con becas para estudiantes de secundaria y financiamiento y becas para un estudiante de optometría.

La Iglesia Episcopal y la Diócesis de la República Dominicana

La Diócesis de la República Dominicana es miembro de la Provincia IX de la Iglesia Episcopal junto con las Diócesis de Colombia, Ecuador Central, Ecuador Litoral, Honduras, Puerto Rico y Venezuela. Los equipos misioneros de los Estados Unidos que trabajan junto con las congregaciones episcopales en la República Dominicana han ayudado a construir y financiar muchos de los proyectos de construcción, centros de bienestar social y programas escolares en curso de la diócesis dominicana. La Diócesis ahora incluye 60 iglesias, 22 escuelas y dos clínicas de salud. El Rt. El reverendo Moisés Quezada Mota se convirtió en obispo de la diócesis en 2018.

Financiamiento de la obra misionera en la República Dominicana

La Diócesis de Georgia mantiene un punto de vista especial, derivado de la relación de Compañerismo que hemos tenido en Georgia con los episcopales de la República Dominicana durante 23 años, un período de crecimiento tanto físico como espiritual para todos.

La Diócesis de Georgia asignó \$10,000 en su presupuesto de 2023 para apoyar el trabajo del Grupo de Desarrollo Dominicano (DDG). El obispo Logue y su representante designado son miembros de la Junta Directiva del DDG. El DDG es un consorcio de diez diócesis (Costa Central del Golfo, Este de Michigan, Oeste de Michigan, Georgia, Nebraska, Noroeste de Texas, La Iglesia Episcopal en Carolina del Sur, Sudeste de Florida, Sudoeste de Florida y Oeste de Luisiana) con relaciones de asociación con la Diócesis de la República Dominicana. La DDG es una organización sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3) dentro de la Iglesia Episcopal que coordina el trabajo de todas las diócesis compañeras para ayudar a la Diócesis de la República Dominicana a fortalecer sus programas y mantener la autosuficiencia financiera.

El DDG ayuda a los equipos misioneros estadounidenses que viajan a la República Dominicana y recauda fondos para la dotación diocesana de la República Dominicana. Más allá de eso, los costos de nuestra relación dinámica con nuestros socios episcopales dominicanos corren a cargo de las parroquias y las personas que eligen contribuir con su tiempo y trabajo y/o sus recursos financieros a los proyectos elegidos para los equipos misioneros.

La Comisión Compañera de la Diócesis

La Comisión Compañera de la Diócesis de Georgia coordina el trabajo de nuestros equipos misioneros diocesanos y publicita su trabajo. Los miembros de la Comisión son los líderes de los equipos misioneros dentro de la diócesis. Los copresidentes son Jim y Haydee Toedtman (St. Peter's, Skidaway Island). Su primer viaje misionero a RD fue con la misión St. Peter's Gift of Sight en 2014. Se unieron a un viaje

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de exploración visitando escuelas e iglesias a lo largo de la costa sur en noviembre de 2019. Han asistido a las reuniones de la junta directiva del DDG desde 2019. La Comisión y los líderes del equipo misionero trabajar estrechamente con el Obispo Moisés, con la Oficina de Apoyo al Equipo Misionero de la Diócesis de la República Dominicana y con el Grupo de Desarrollo Dominicano.

Es importante destacar que la búsqueda de nuevos equipos para unirse a este esfuerzo está en curso. Las oportunidades están limitadas sólo por nuestra imaginación, pero ya van desde becas y una “Caminata por el Agua” hasta la construcción de nuevas iglesias. Si usted o su iglesia tienen interés, comuníquese con la Comisión o con Christy Wallace del Grupo de Desarrollo

Dominicano (cwallacedominicandevdevelopmentgroup.org). O comuníquese con Jim Toedtman (jstoedtman@gmail.com); o Haydee Toedtman (hstoedtman@gmail.com).

Haydee and Jim Toedtman
Companion Diocese Commission Co-chairs

CREATION CARE COMMISSION

The Creation Care Commission engages the Diocese in loving care for God’s Creation through inspiration, education, and action. After receiving official canonical status at last year’s Convention and the appointment of new members, the Commission has focused on reorganising and planning for its future work. Serving on the Commission in 2023 were Bill Swan (Albany Convocation), Katie Hall and Tom Smyth (Augusta Convocation), Dave Cranford (Central Convocation), Laura Walker (Savannah Convocation), the Rev. Nathan Wilson (Southeast Convocation), and Cathy Stevens (Southwest).

The Rev. Nathan Wilson
Commission Chair

CURSILLO REPORT

The Commission on Cursillo made a valiant effort to schedule a Cursillo weekend in 2022, following two years of no weekends being held due to concerns related to Covid-19. The team was prepared and ready to proceed, and Cursillo #127 was scheduled

and promoted. In spite of the fact that there was low registration for this event, the Commission elected to move forward, believing that a smaller group would make it safer and easier to follow Covid-19 guidelines for the weekend. Sadly, the majority of the participants canceled at the last minute, leaving us with no option other than to postpone the weekend until gathering together felt safer for everybody.

We did, however, continue to meet regularly via Zoom as a Commission, and spent time updating our by-laws, reviewing the flow of the Cursillo weekend, considering options for making changes to the Cursillo weekend, reviewing how weekends were going in other Dioceses, and making every effort to remain positive about the future of Cursillo in our Diocese.

A Commission meeting was scheduled at Honey Creek in 2022, and Rob Richardson, Chair of the National Episcopal Cursillo Ministry, was invited to meet with us to help us discern our next steps. Following two days of in-depth prayer, conversation, fellowship, and difficult meetings, and with guidance and encouragement from Rob, the Commission voted to continue the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese, with plans to schedule a Diocesan Ultreya in the Spring of 2023, and to re-schedule Cursillo #127 when feasible. The Cursillo Ministry Fund was depleted in its entirety in 2022 due to the untimely cancellation.

Commission members included four clergy and twelve lay representatives from around the Diocese. Cursillistas who have served on at least one team are eligible to serve on the Commission.

We are so grateful to report that we were able to sponsor a Diocesan Ultreya in April 2023 and a FULL and wonderful Cursillo weekend in September 2023!

Thank you to all of the Commission members, to our Bishop, and to all of you who have supported the Cursillo Ministry in our diocese.

Cissy Bowden
Cursillo Commission Chair

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DEACONS OF THE DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

As of 26 Sept 23, in the Diocese of Georgia there are:

- (1) 15 active Deacons
- (2) Two chaplains
- (3) Eight retired
- (4) 13 Retired but Active in their home church only
- (5) There are two postulants
- (6) Two in discernment
- (7) We had our annual Deacon retreat June 23-24, 2023, Bishop Logue our theme this year was "Our Spiritual Gifts" we had two guest speakers including the bishop to give us their perspective on spiritual gifts.
- (8) I would like to introduce the Very Rev. Richard Nelson as the Deacon's Chaplain. Thank you, Rev. Richard.
- (9) All is well with the deacons, we are still doing the servanthood per our ordination vows. In 2022 when COVID 19 was on a decline we had to make adjustments once again from when COVID 19 was at its highest on how we served in the community, but we are resilient and have made many changes, and some of those changes are still on going. We are there for the sick, the homeless, the shut in and the needy in many other ways than the traditional way. (Example, doing daily stories and, in-person with story sharing and deep listening throughout the US.

Archdeacon Yvette Owens

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Functioning at the diocesan level much like a vestry for a church, council is comprised of clergy and lay representatives from convocations and at-large members, as well as the chancellor, convocation deans, bishop and canons who serve ex officio on the Council. The Council met three times in 2022.

At each meeting Council members hear reports from the Canon for Administration, the Canon to the Ordinary, the Canon for Program and Liturgy, and Bishop Logue. Other reports are given as needed.

December 8, 2022

Online via Zoom

The Bishop reviewed the new canons that were passed at Diocesan Convention, including those that

specifically mentioned Diocesan Council. The Bishop introduced the meeting schedule for the next year, including having two meetings online and two in person.

Bishop Logue explained the budget cycle and how that interacts with the work of Diocesan Council. He introduced two assessment appeals for Council to review - St. Elizabeth's, Richmond Hill and St. Andrew's, Douglas. The next agenda covered reviewing the housing allowance for clergy on diocesan staff as well as clergy who are employed by the diocese.

The Bishop opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of Council and three additional members of Executive Council. The Rev. Steve Clifton was nominated for Vice President, and the Rev. Larry Jesion, the Rev. Donald Holland, and Jane Gilchrist were nominated for Executive Council, and all were elected for their respective positions.

Bishop Logue proposed three tasks groups for 2023: Companion Diocese, Diocesan Convention, and Clergy Cottage. Council members and Deans were asked to send an email stating their interest in the task groups. The appeals for St. Elizabeth's and St. Andrew's were approved and passed. The clergy housing allowance was also approved and passed.

March 4, 2023

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Tifton, GA

Bishop Logue opened the meeting with Holy Eucharist. Bishop Logue reminded the Council that the policies that it puts in place make tangible differences in the lives of people. He referenced the Parental Leave policy approved by Council which has allowed Canon Katie Easterlin and Executive Assistant Maggie Lyons to take appropriate time with their new children. Maggie Lyons returned to work last month, and Canon Katie Easterlin returns on Monday, March 13, 2023.

Bishop Logue announced those who agreed to serve on the three different tasks groups presented in the last meeting. Bishop Logue presented the draft financials

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for 2022. He explained that while the overall numbers are accurate, some of the individual lines will be adjusted as the finances are examined by our auditors. One particular note is that as the financials currently stand it appears as if there was a \$768,209 expense in December 2022. This is due to the payoff of the final debt incurred over ten years ago for Honey Creek. This will eventually be adjusted to reflect the paying off of a debt and will be shown on the balance sheet rather than as a financial expenditure. Further discussion was had around the budget. He did name that there should be a task group formed around the process for assessment appeals. Council agreed and the group will be named moving forward.

Council had to review two appeals - St. Margaret of Scotland, Moultrie and St. Thomas, Thomasville. Both were approved and voted on. The Bishop launched into a conversation about changing models of ministry and how that affects our congregations and budgets. Council was taken through an exercise of generating questions about where we are as a church and having a conversation about those questions.

Canon Varner reported that attendance is steadily increasing among Diocesan Youth Programs, including February 24-26 New Beginnings that had 52 people present, which equals numbers seen in pre-pandemic years. He also noted that other programs including the Lay Ministers' Conference and Clergy Conferences will continue to be offered, as well as youth programs, summer camp, and summer mission trips. For more information, see the written report.

Canon Lasch reported that she is dealing directly with many congregations who can no longer afford a full-time priest, and others who are in transition between clergy. She provided a list of Parishes in Transition, Parishes without clergy for the foreseeable future, and New Calls that have recently been finalized.

Bishop Logue's report included his profound joy in traveling around the diocese visiting our congregations. He named parishes that had at one point been in crisis, but are now thriving. He also said that "thriving" looks different across the diocese. In summary,

Bishop Logue said that even with that reality before us, he could point to causes for optimism that he sees as he traverses the Diocese. He quoted Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in saying that while we need to be realistic "the Holy Spirit ain't done with us yet!"

He reminded Council that the Diocese of Georgia has thrived in the past with models of ministry that differ from our common expectation of a priest for each congregation. We are not looking for a one-size fits all solution other than faithfulness to Jesus.

June 27, 2023

Online via Zoom

Bishop Logue opened with prayer. Council was reminded of the meeting schedule for the rest of the year. Canon Lasch reported that there are three clergy in new positions across the Diocese. Transitions The Rev. Kimberly Dunn is the new Associate Rector at St. Paul's, Augusta. Colette Hammesfahr, who is in the process for ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is about to begin serving as the Associate Rector at, St. Thomas, Savannah. The Rev. Michael Moore has been called to serve as Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church, Saint Marys and Priest-in-Charge at St. Mark's, Woodbine. There are still four open full-time positions, and many open part-time positions.

Canon Easterlin noted that this is her first Diocesan Council meeting since returning from parental leave and expressed that it is good to be back! She updated Council on the unfolding situation at St. Michael & All Angels', Savannah. As of this meeting they have officially become an Aided Parish through the Congregation in Crisis canon. The Diocese has begun working on a large number of issues involving physical plant, financial status, and the existing outside ministries that are continuing for the foreseeable future. Canon Easterlin also reported that the Dock Project is moving forward, in partnership with Camden County and that the Diocese recently conducted its audit. The audit process has gone smoothly, and the results will be received soon. Looking forward, Canon Easterlin has begun looking at data for tithe calculations and those will be coming soon.

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Canon Varner reported that Summer Camp is going well, and the final session is about to conclude. The number of campers and staff, while not yet up to pre-Covid levels, increased dramatically from the summer of 2022. He reported that a Family Camp session is planned for July. In addition, the Diocese will be taking 17 youth and 5 adults, including Bishop Logue to the triennial Episcopal Youth Event, which takes place July 4-8 in College Park, MD. In the fall, the Diocesan Clergy Conference will focus on preaching the Gospel of Mark, with The Very Rev. Cynthia Kitteredge, Dean and President of the Seminary of the Southwest. The Lay Ministers' Conference will be examining what it looks like to be a faithful Christian in a post-Christendom world with Dr. Scott Bader-Saye, also of the Seminary of the Southwest.

Bishop Logue recapped the task groups, and each group gave an update of their progress. Bishop Logue began his report by noting that St. Michael & All Angels, Savannah initiated their shift to an Aided Parish. However, the physical location and the ongoing ministries at St. Michael & All Angels' are unique and the Diocese is working to continue ministry there for the time being. St. Andrew's, Douglas is in a state of decline, but there is a possibility of selling to the Anglican church in Douglas, whose members have many family members buried at St. Andrew's. He concluded his report by announcing the theme and speaker for the 2023 Diocesan Convention.

September 30, 2023

Trinity Episcopal Church, Cochran, GA

Council began with the Holy Eucharist. Canon Easterlin began her report reminding Council that all financial reports are online. She reported that we are in the fifth year of a clean audit, and that the diocese continues to balance the budget. Canon Easterlin explained that balancing the budget this year required a slight decrease in mission line items for congregations, and included new line for Spanish language ministries line item that was moved out from under mission line item. Honey Creek is still working to "return to normal," and it is still a struggle. Bishop Logue and the Canons are working with the Executive

Director Dade Brantley on a strategic plan moving forward. valuations on our properties has increased as well as the things to replace property has increased; buildings are costlier and more expensive to replace. Health insurance usage is up across the board which effects our premiums.

Bishop Logue asked for updates from each of the task groups. The Diocesan Convention and Diocesan Assessment group are continuing their work together. The Companion Diocese task group reported that they have concluded that the diocese continue in relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic.

Canon Lasch reported on the snapshot of the state of transition ministry across the church; what does our ministry with parishes in transition look like? There are 23 parishes currently in transition.

Bishop Logue reported on St. Michael & All Angels in Savannah, St. Cyprian's and St. Andrew's in Darien, and St. Andrew's in Douglas. He updated the Council on current new clergy and clergy calls, as well as those who are in any part of the process for ordination. Bishop Logue reviewed the parameters of the upcoming Mutual Ministry Review.

Council voted to approve both of the appeals presented, to endorse the budget presented to convention, and to approve the recommendation of the Companion Diocese task group to continue the relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic.

Liz Williams

Communications Manager

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four year program designed for the laity and administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. The purpose of EfM is to educate us in our faith, and help us discern our individual calls to ministry. The first year of EfM, we study the Old Testament, and in the second year, we study the New Testament. The third year is devoted to the history of Christianity throughout the world. The materials

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for the fourth year are several short books on the subject of theology, including readings by authors who practice other faiths.

There are many active EfM groups throughout the Diocese of Georgia, and there are groups meeting all over the world. As a result of the pandemic, there are many more groups now meeting exclusively and indefinitely online, and many more online trainings are now available for EfM mentors.

Rita Spalding
EfM Coordinator, Diocese of Georgia

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Diocesan Board of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is working since the last Convention to improve communication between all the women of all parishes in the Diocese. This board has many helpful resources to offer support for both parishes and individual women. All women of the Diocese are members of the ECW whether their parish has an organized chapter or not.

There are many opportunities for women to serve on this board and in their convocations and parishes. Visit www.ecw.georgiaepiscopal.org for contact information and details.

We had a successful Annual Retreat hosted by the Southwest Convocation at St. John's, Bainbridge. Our keynote Speaker, Dr. Bertice Berry gave an uplifting, inspiring presentation on telling our stories. Our next Annual Retreat will take place April 19-20, 2024. We will meet at St. Paul's, Albany as Albany Convocation offers their gracious hospitality. Look for more information in From the Field during December. May God bless and keep you.

Margaret Jordan
President

EPISCOPAL YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The 2022 EYCS Board was composed of twelve women from ten churches. They joined together to fulfill the EYCS mission, to strengthen family life and commitment to the Episcopal Church in the form of providing financial assistance to youth 22 years of age or younger for college expenses or attendance at

Honey Creek Camp. A total of \$60,500 in scholarships was awarded among 29 students from 24 churches across the Diocese, from Thomasville to Hawkinsville, to Augusta and down to Brunswick, with points in between, for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The Camp at Honey Creek opened again in 2022 after being closed because of the pandemic. During the 2022 camp season, \$10,000 in funds were allocated to help students attend camp.

The primary sources for funds continue to be the EYCS Endowment fund: \$20,000.00; the Anson Dodge fund: \$35,000.00; Ingatherings from 16 congregations and the ECW, totaling \$13,207; and \$9,458.21 from the Bishop's fund. Ingatherings are traditionally held in November, and still are in many congregations, as the Canons state: "At the regular service, or on the Sunday immediately preceding or following Thanksgiving Day, an offering shall be taken for the 'Episcopal Youth and Children's Services.'" Later the Canons state: "A Congregation may elect to place in its budget an item for the support of the 'Episcopal Youth and Children's Services', and for the support of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, in lieu of taking the special offerings as set forth herein."

Now, some Congregations choose to hold their Ingatherings at another designated time during the year. It is best for each Parish to decide which time during the year works best for their needs as the Ingathering is a canonical requirement. Sadly, less than a quarter of the churches in the Diocese participate in the Ingathering even though more than a quarter of the churches have students who benefit from the scholarships.

Nearly all the scholarship recipients (with a few exceptions for health- or pandemic-related issues) had outstanding academic performances and are involved in their churches. Scholarship awards vary based on financial need, and students reapply each year for consideration for another scholarship. Each student is assigned an EYCS board member to represent them throughout their college years. These students work very hard, and their stories and achievements continue to move and inspire the board every year. The board observed another drop in scholarship applications in

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2022, primarily assumed to be a continued effect of the pandemic.

Please help get the word out to your congregation this spring to encourage any eligible students to apply. Deadline for applications is June 15, 2024. The EYCS Publicity Team developed a new marketing piece in 2021 to explain clearly and easily who we are, what we do, and how to apply for scholarship. A hard copy is available at our table and a digital copy may be obtained on our webpage at <http://eycs.georgiaepiscopal.org/>.

The EYCS Board will be seeking to identify several new board members to join the board in the spring of 2024, to replace the members that will be rotating off in 2023. Thank you to all those congregations who have provided financial support, the fabulous board members, and scholars. This is a team effort, and we continue to update our EYCS website, as it is still the best resource for all things EYCS! You may also reach out via email to: eycs.georgiaepiscopal@gmail.com

Victoria Logue
2023 EYCS Chair

HONEY CREEK

Like so many congregations in our diocese, Honey Creek continues to struggle in our efforts to return to pre-pandemic activity and revenue. We are down 8% when compared to 2022, and down 30% when compared to 2019. Summer Camp census was up over last season, however it remains far below a sustainable number of campers. In 2024 we will celebrate 100 years of camp ministry in the Diocese of Georgia, with most of that history occurring at Honey Creek. There were 11 cancelled events (all diocesan), and six new non-diocesan events were booked. Members of the Honey Creek Commission continue to serve as ambassadors throughout the diocese, helping to raise awareness and resources for the Future Fund.

Honey Creek continues to be the spiritual home for so many in the Diocese of Georgia and beyond. It will remain a refuge and keeper of memories for years to come.

Dade Brantley
Executive Director of Honey Creek

LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

This year, Leading with Grace held all 4 workshops at Honey Creek. Though our participants were few (12), they were certainly dynamic! Throughout the year, we focused on Relationships, Planned Change, Best Leadership Practices, and Conflict Transformation. Participants from three parishes used their training to initiate projects that included designing and creating a church directory for Calvary, Americus, planning and executing a Christ Church Fredrica cemetery crawl, using a QR code for access to the accompanying narration, and planning a Grace, Waycross, downtown concert and bbq. Our trainers, Reverends Tar Drazdowski, June Johnson, Melanie Lemburg, and Becky Rowell, along with Carey Wooten, could not have been more pleased with this group. Next year, Reverends Guillermo Arboleda and Kelly Steele plan to join us, as does Simona Perry, current Sr. Warden and St. Paul the Apostle, Savannah.

We continue to adapt and change our program to encourage and welcome as many participants as possible in this important, gracious leadership training. In 2024, we'll be offering a series of four Saturday-only workshops around the state. Although we welcome and encourage participants to attend all four workshops, they can also choose to attend only one. Details for registration will be found in From the Field in November.

Carey Wooten
Director, Leading With Grace

MISSIONER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Since October 2020, I have served as the Diocese of Georgia's Missioner for Racial Justice in a quarter-time capacity (alongside my duties as Rector of St. Matthew's, Savannah). I have two primary goals in this role: (1) Christian education for the Diocese on matters of racial justice, equity, and appropriate political engagement for churches; and (2) public witness regarding the Church's positions on nonpartisan political matters of racial justice and equity. Much of my work in 2022-2023 was at the intersection of these two goals.

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In May, after several months of preparation, I delivered a talk at TEDxSavannah 2023 entitled “Amazing Grace and Mass Incarceration” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shbyZx_1NXQ). This talk focuses on the Christian origins of mass incarceration and the potential for the Christian belief in grace to be part of the solution. I have become a regular contributor to the ecumenical Abolition Lectionary project (<https://christiansforabolition.org/abolition-lectionary>), which provides commentaries on RCL texts for Sundays and holidays in all three years with an emphasis on the theological foundations for the abolition of prisons. In the spring, I began working on a proposal to write a book about a Christian abolitionist response to police brutality and mass incarceration. I took a 12-week sabbatical from both St. Matthew’s and the Diocese in the summer of 2023. During the sabbatical, I drafted about three chapters of this proposed book. While I refine my proposal and search for a publisher, I plan to publish portions of these chapters as shorter pieces in magazines or journals. I continue to work with the Leading With Grace trainers to develop training material about bias, cultural awareness, and antiracism. I am currently working with the Bishop and Diocesan Staff to identify an approved antiracism training program for local use in the Diocese of Georgia.

I have continued to collaborate with other organizations to advocate for political change in a number of areas. On the local level, Justice Unites Savannah Together (JUST) is an interfaith network of congregations working to achieve justice in Savannah and Chatham County. I represent St. Matthew’s and the Diocese of Georgia on JUST’s Board of Directors and Personnel Committee. In 2022-2023, we worked on growing local funds to build designated affordable housing and improving reading levels in the Savannah-Chatham Public School System. Both of these justice issues disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and other residents of color in our area. On Election Day 2022, I served as a Poll Chaplain in Savannah after receiving training from Faiths United to Save Democracy (<https://www.turnoutsunday.com>). U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff invited me and other Savannah clergy to a roundtable discussion about local priorities for federal legislation, such as improving education, job creation, improving public safety, and ending

police brutality. I have worked collaboratively with the Savannah NAACP and FPL to hold nonpartisan political education events and plan to organize more with the ACLU of Georgia in late 2023 and 2024. I thank the Diocese for the opportunity to work on all these matters on behalf of the wider Church.

The Rev. Guillermo Arboleda
Missioner for Racial Justice

PROGRAM AND LITURGY

This year the Diocese has continued to offer programs in addition to children’s and youth events. In December the Diocese will offer its second Lay Ministers’ Conference since 2009. This conference will be led by Dr. Scott Bader-Saye, Academic Dean and Professor of Christian Ethics at the Seminary of the Southwest. Participants will have a chance to get to know one another, to share joys and challenges in their ministries, and to think with Dr. Bader-Saye about how we can live our ministries in an era when attending a Christian congregation is no longer a social norm (if it ever truly was). Last year’s conference brought together approximately 30 lay ministers from across the Diocese and we hope to have at least as many this year. The conference takes place December 1-2 at Honey Creek..

Twice each year, the Diocese also hosts Clergy Conference. Each conference offers clergy a chance to worship together, to spend time with each other and with Bishop Logue, and to learn more about what is going on in other congregations and other parts of the Diocese. This past spring our clergy were trained in Mental Health First Aid during the conference. In the fall, they spent time with Dr. Cynthia Kittridge, President and Professor of New Testament at the Seminary of the Southwest, going through the Gospel of Mark in preparation for the new liturgical year which begins on Advent 1.

As Canon Varner continues to serve as Canon for Program & Liturgy, he looks forward to working with congregations on their own programs as well as supporting the offerings the Diocese provides.

Canon Joshua Varner
Canon for Program and Liturgy

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RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALING MINISTRY

Racial Justice Georgia (RJGA) has welcomed new members, continued to pursue established projects, and sharpened its vision of how to work for racial justice in our diocesan communities. An extended meeting with Dr. Catherine Meeks at the Absalom Jones Center in Atlanta in April was a reinvigorating boost, giving us confidence that the small endeavors that are in our power to pursue, in the face of such an entrenched thing as racism, do matter. We pursue all of this work as part of the Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community initiative (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community/>), an imperative rooted in our Baptismal Covenant and the umbrella under which we minister.

The existing RJGA team is delighted that The Rev. DeWayne Cope (St. Athanasius, Brunswick) and The Rev. Kimberly Dunn (Saint Paul's, Augusta) have joined. As the only Black priests in the diocese, their insight and lived experience are vital contributions to RJGA's work. Continuing on the RJGA team are The Rev. Billy Alford (retired), The Rev. Canon Julian Clarke (retired), The Rev. Susan Gage (St. Barnabas, Valdosta), Max Hess (St. Athanasius, Brunswick), The Rev. June Johnson (retired), Lela Lewis (St. Paul's, Jesup), Linda Moore (St. Anne's, Tifton), Dwala Nobles (Good Shepherd, Pennick), Michael G. Noll (Christ the King, Valdosta), and Arthur Stewart and Clara Rowsey-Stewart (St. Cyprian's, Darien). Karen Cote (St. Luke's, Rincon) and John Hayes (St. Augustine's, Augusta) continue as co-chairs. The group meets every other week, and the regularity of the meetings and the candid conversations we have energize us and keep us accountable to the work we are seeking to do. If you are reading this and would like to join the team or sit in on one of our meetings, please contact us at RacialJusticeGA@gaepiscopal.org.

We have continued fundraising efforts for the restoration of the Good Shepherd schoolhouse and its transformation into the St. Anna Alexander Center for Racial Reconciliation and Healing, as Bishop Benhase envisioned in his address to the

2019 Convention. To date we have raised \$67,000, and we urge churches with endowments to commit 3% of their funds to the Center, as Bishop Benhase summoned in 2019. We have begun meeting with Savannah-based Ethos Preservation for guidance on the logistics of restoration. For more on the project or to make a donation, please visit <https://goodshepherdschoolhouse.org/>.

In February we launched a Zoom-based diocesan book study, reading Dante Stewart's searing meditation *Shoutin' in the Fire: An American Epistle* (2021) over the course of four weeks. With 12-15 people from throughout the diocese participating, we had engaging, heartfelt discussions—including with the author himself in one of the sessions. In July we read Melissa Fay Greene's *Praying for Sheetrock*, a powerful account of the Civil Rights Movement in McIntosh County. Again we had good diocesan-wide participation, and some excellent, heady conversations. We will continue the book studies on a regular basis, with Anne Bailey's *The Weeping Time: Memory and the Largest Slave Auction in American History* next, in January.

In September we hosted the 3rd Annual St. Anna Alexander Pilgrimage. We created the pilgrimage in 2021, and in 2022 we invited participants in two convocation-based interracial fellowship programs. This year we publicized the Pilgrimage and advertised it throughout the diocese. The response exceeded our expectations: 36 people participated, with pilgrims from Christ Church, Frederica; St. Anne's, Tifton; St. Athanasius, Brunswick; St. Augustine's, Augusta; St. Barnabas, Valdosta; St. Cyprian's, Darien; and St. Matthew's, Savannah. It was a moving, poignant weekend. It was also very much enriched this year by choristers from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Decatur, in the Diocese of Atlanta, who performed music they had created especially for the pilgrimage. It will continue as an annual event, always on the weekend closest to St. Anna's Feast Day of September 24. Next year it will be September 20-22, and we encourage you to attend.

Marking our racial history on the landscape is one of RJGA's basic goals, and we are in the early stages of work on a memorial to victims of lynching in Glynn County. In March members of RJGA attended St. Cyprian,

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Darien's annual Weeping Time commemoration, and as part of that, we joined a special prayer at the future site of the Weeping Time Memorial Park. In August members of RJGA attended the dedication ceremony for Christ the King, Valdosta's new Civil Rights mural (<https://christthekingvaldosta.org/>). We encourage churches to follow the example of St. Cyprian's and Christ the King, and consider how they can use the space and property they have to "tell the truth" about racism and "proclaim the dream" of Beloved Community.

We were not able for various reasons, alas, to organize the convocational interracial fellowship program this year. We will resume it next year, in the Central and Southwestern convocations. Members of our group did present at Christ Church, Frederica in February as part of their series on "who is my neighbor?" and at St. Augustine's, Augusta in June as part of its Adult Forum. We are eager to come to you, to speak, present, lead a workshop, or some other format as your church undertakes the work of Becoming Beloved Community.

A significant part of our time and energy this past year was devoted to addressing racism in a crisis situation. It is not appropriate to disclose details about this situation in this report, but we can say that it showed unmistakably that racism is not a mere vestige from the past but an active force in the present, and that "racism" is not just the overt things many associate with it—the Klan, lynching, certain epithets, etc—but also involves such everyday dynamics as whose concerns get priority, whose voice gets a hearing, and whose experience is valued. Racism is America's original sin. Sadly, it is alive and well in our churches, too. In the wake of the crisis situation, RJGA seeks to be a more proactive advocate for the cares and concerns of the eight historically Black churches of the diocese, and to challenge White Episcopalians about race and racism, "speaking the truth in love" as an interracial group.

John Hayes & Karen Cote
Co-Chairs

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee worked hard this past year in developing our understanding of our responsibilities as stated in the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Georgia and the Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church is evolving and so our governance is evolving as well. It has been our pleasure to work with the Bishop as his Council of Advice, affirming those who are entering the process of seeking Holy Orders, and to be a resource to the congregations of the Diocese of Georgia. The following is a synopsis of our meetings and the decisions that were made. If you desire to see the minutes of our meetings that are available at the diocesan office.

November 12, 2022

The committee welcomed the newly elected members Ms. Charlotte Toni Blue and the Rev. Becky Rowell. We also thanked the Very Rev. Dr. William Willoughby III and Mrs. Beth Mithen for their service on the Standing Committee for the past four years.

The Very Rev. Tar Drazdowski was elected President of the Standing Committee and Ms. Pat Leslie was elected Secretary.

December 9-10, 2023

This was a joint meeting with the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee.

We interviewed Brandon Medley, Jim Strickland, and Ethan White. After meeting with the Commission on Ministry, agreed with the Commission on Ministry they should proceed with their studies for their prospective orders.

We gave consent for the election of the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Ohio, The Rev. Ann B. Jolly.

The Rev. David Rose will chair a committee to establish guidelines for the Election of a Bishop.

The Standing Committee received a request from St. Michael's and All Angels for the sale of their Rectory with the proceeds used to repair the church building

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and renovate the upstairs of the church building. It was also stated in the proposal to renovate the second floor for a daycare center that would generate income for the parish. After much discussion, the Standing asked for the following documents 1) a land survey, 2) home inspection 3) an appraisal. After these conditions were met and documentation of each was sent to the Diocese, the Standing Committee would reconsider the Vestry's request.

This request from St. Michael's and All Angels and the discussion that followed made the committee aware of the need to establish clearer guidelines for these requests.

January 10, 2023

The Standing Committee met via Zoom.

The committee gave consent to the election of the Rev. Melissa Skelton as Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Olympia. Consent was given unanimously.

The Rev. Becky Rowell gave an update on the proposed Hone Creek boat ramp. We are working in cooperation with the county government, DNR, and the Diocese to look into the feasibility of selling 0.9 acres of land for a public boat ramp at the end of the road coming into the conference center.

Camden County has requested we sell them the land for market value and they will build and maintain the ramp. Details are still being worked out.

February 21, 2023

The Standing Committee met via Zoom.

We received the request packet from St. Michael and All Angels for the sale of their rectory. The appraisal of the Rectory came in at \$625,000. The inspection showed numerous concerns which have driven down the property value. We decided it would be helpful to us and helpful for St Michael's and All Angels to meet together at a time convenient for their vestry. An onsite visit was deemed to be helpful so we could better understand their concerns.

St. Cyprian's Update- We are waiting for a letter from the full Vestry of St. Cyprians concerning the project of a Weeping Time Memorial Park.

We voted to the consent of the election of the Rev. Canon Dr. Justin Holcomb as the Bishop of Central Florida.

We received an update on St. Andrew's in Douglas.

The Standing Committee discussed the need for a standard procedure for the sale of Church property, encumbrance of property, and purchase of property. We would like to develop a clearer pathway and transition when these matters come before us. The Rev. Becky Rowell will review what is in the policy manual and look at what changes are needed.

We will meet with the Commission on Ministry and interview the following postulants for Candidacy: Bertice Berry, Becky Dorrell, and Shelley Martin. We will also interview Casey Perkins and Noelle Raidford for Candidacy and Ordination as Vocational Deacons as well as Shayna Cranford's ordination as a transitional deacon. We also met with Gabriel Lawrence and Ken Shrader.

Update on the boat Ramp- Camden County indicated that they are working on getting the appraisal for the land that will be designated for the ramp. DNR is working on the grant for the living shoreline.

Bishop Logue has requested the Standing Committee complete his Mutual Ministry Review.

March 15, 2023

The Standing Committee met at Diocesan House.

We discussed the request by St. Michael and All Angels and a meeting is scheduled for later in the evening. A site visit will not be possible due to numerous activities taking place at the church. Bishop Logue joined us for the meeting with St Michael's Vestry. We discussed their current situation and offered to help in way they thought would be helpful. In consultation with Bishop Logue, the Standing Committee approved the sale of the Rectory, with the proceeds of the sale to be used only for capital improvements on the church building.

St. Andrew's Douglas is still holding services. They are sharing their space with a group from the Methodist

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Church. The future of both groups is unknown at this time.

The Rev. Tar Drazdowski received a letter from St. Cyprian's asking for an update on their request to build a Weeping Time Memorial Park. We have received the requested documentation and the Standing Committee unanimously approved their request.

April 11, 2023

The Standing Committee met via Zoom.

Bishop Logue met with us as we interviewed and decided on three applicants for Candidacy. They were Ms. Becky Dorrell, vocational diaconate, Dr. Bertice Berry, vocational diaconate, and Ms. Shelley Martin, priesthood. In concert with the Commission on Ministry, all three applicants were approved.

May 25, 2023

The Standing Committee met via Zoom

We discussed the Bishop's Mutual Ministry Review. The intent is to provide valuable feedback that is specific, honest, and helpful. We also felt it important for the Bishop to know that we support his Episcopacy and we pledge our support when needed. The Rev. Walter Hobgood and the Rev. Becky Rowell will craft the document and the committee will provide feedback. The document will be mailed to Bishop Logue on June 3rd.

June 13, 2023

Update on the Public Boat Ramp at Honey Creek. Camden County has asked if the Diocese would be interested in a Lease-Purchase Agreement. Camden County offered a \$50,000 deposit for the Diocese to hold in trust until the permitting is finalized and then they would pay the remainder to the purchase price of \$125,000. The agreement also stipulates that once the plans are drawn, the Diocese would review the plan. Once the plan is approved, the Diocese is no longer involved in planning. The Standing committee approved the sale as proposed. Once the project is approved by all parties the boat ramp should be up and running within two years.

DNR is working on a grant for a living shoreline to run the length of our property. The original proposal for 2,000 feet of living shoreline was declined, but DNR is rewriting the proposal for the next grant cycle.

The Rev. David Rose gave an update on Canon 1, Section 8 dealing with the Election of a Bishop. Slight changes were made. It will now be submitted for approval to the Bishop and the Chancellor.

St. George's sent a request to the Standing Committee for approval of the sale of their rectory. This is St. George's second request. The first request was denied. The second request contained much more information and gave a more detailed accounting of how they want to use the proceeds of the sale, specifically for ministry in their community and to help offset the loss of income from the rectory.

The Rev. Tar Drazdowski gave a brief update on the election of the Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Florida, the Rev. Charles Holt. The Standing Committee did not consent to the election.

July 11, 2023

Bishop's Mutual Ministry review- The Bishop was very receptive to the review. He said he found it helpful.

St. Andrew's Douglas- They remain faithful in attending service even though they believe it is short-lived.

The Rev. Ann Ritonia was elected Bishop-Elect of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. The Standing Committee gave their unanimous consent.

The Rev. Becky Rowell gave an update on the Honey Creek boat ramp. She will contact The Camden County Manager for the status of the Sales Agreement.

August 8, 2023

The Standing Committee met via Zoom.

Bishop Logue gave us an update on St. Michael and All Angels and St. George's. Both churches have requested to sell their rectories. Although their circumstances are similar, their outcomes will be different. The Standing Committee has been made

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aware more detailed information is needed from churches requesting to sell the property and on how they intend to use the proceeds from the sale. The Standing Committee needs to specify provisions for the use of those funds. The Diocese will administer the funds from that point forward.

We are working on a policy to standardize the process. It will need to be a collaborative effort between the parishes, the Standing Committee, and the Diocesan Staff.

September 5, 2023

The Standing Committee met at Saint Anne's in Tifton.

We need to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Pat will send them out to all of the committee members so corrections can be made if needed.

After consulting with the Bishop, the Rev. Tar Drazdowski gave an update on St. Michael and All Angels. The Bishop will determine a time for the closing service. If at all possible, all members of the committee are asked to attend.

There was a discussion on the need for incoming members of the Standing Committee to have an orientation. The Rev. David Rose has undertaken this project. The committee would like to set the schedule for all meetings for the coming year.

The Rev. Becky Rowell will be making the requested changes to the Policy Manual and she will email the corrections to the committee.

The Rev. Becky Rowell gave an update on the Honey Creek boat ramp. The Camden County Manager requested the status of the project. Canon Katie Easterlin said the information has been turned over to the Diocesan attorney for review.

Ms. Pat Leslie shared a draft of the Planning Document from St. George's concerning the ways they plan to use the proceeds from the sale of their rectory.

The Rev. Tar Drazdowski
President

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Greetings to all!

Sewanee: The University of the South is a higher education institution of the Episcopal Church. The University is founded and governed by 28 constituent Episcopal dioceses. The University houses the undergraduate College of Arts and Science, the School of Theology and the School of Letters.

The College of Arts and Science provides the highest quality of liberal arts education with its focus on developing the whole person through studies in humanities and scientific study while nurturing students in leadership, intellectual and spiritual growth.

The School of Theology educates and prepares individuals for ordained and lay vocations within the church. The School provides a stellar and high quality curriculum in theological, biblical and liturgical studies that involves not only classroom instruction but also, engages seminary students in a common life of prayer and service in the community. Education for Ministry or EfM was birthed in 1975 at the School of Theology and is an international theological program that have benefitted more than 120,000 participants in discerning and discovering their call to Christian service.

The School of Letters is a six-week summer Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in creative writing. Students immerse themselves in writing and literature and attend reading series and talks by special guests authors, publishers, faculty and students. Robert W. Pearigen, Ph.D., C'76 began his tenure as the University's 18th Vice-Chancellor and President of Board of Trustees on July 1, 2023. Pearigen was officially installed on October 19, 2023 at All Saint's Chapel and the ceremony was attended by his family and friends, the Boards of Regents and Trustees, faculty, staff and students. Pearigen and his wife Phoebe are no strangers to Sewanee having taught at the University for over 23 years. Rob Pearigen was also the Dean of Men in 1987 and subsequently became the Dean of Students and Vice-President of University Relations. The Pearigen family was warmly welcomed

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by the University's Boards of Regents and Trustees, faculty, students, alumni and the larger community.

The School of Theology has started renovations on Hamilton Hall that is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer in 2024. Staff, faculty and students have relocated to temporary sites on campus. With this capital project underway, the School of Theology is now focused on raising funds for scholarships to support seminarians.

In FY23, the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and six of our parishes made contributions to the seminary:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Albany
Calvary Episcopal Church, Americus
Trinity Episcopal Church, Cochran
Our Savior Episcopal Church, Martinez
Christ Episcopal Church, Savannah
Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta

Currently 57 students are enrolled at the School of Theology of which three are from the Diocese of Georgia. There are also 7 Education for Ministry (EfM) groups in the Diocese. Fifteen School of Theology alumni serve in our diocese not counting laity who graduated from the College and School.

Sewanee is committed to meeting students' full financial need through scholarships and financial aid. This serves the church's overall mission of ensuring that students can have access to excellent theological education without being hampered by education debt or drained of personal assets.

We too can be a part of this important call to help raise up leaders for our church by making annual gifts and bequests to Sewanee. We ask that you and your parish prayerfully consider making an annual gift to Sewanee in support of seminarians and the future of our church. More information about the School of Theology may be found on their website: www.theology.sewanee.edu.

The University of the South
735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383
visit: episcopal.sewanee.edu

ECCE QUAM BONUM

Val Crumpton
The Very Rev. Tom Purdy
Whit Davis
Trustees for the University of the South

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)

Greetings on behalf of the UTO Board of the Diocese of Georgia, with thanks for all your work that builds up gratitude within the Episcopal Church through the United Thank Offering. We are proud of the long history of UTO's work for the Church and are grateful to continue the long line of leaders who have tirelessly promoted UTO's ministry of thankfulness around the world. I remember you in my prayers of gratitude for your generous outreach.

It is our practice in our life in Christ to offer daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving to God. These gifts of thanksgiving – coins and bills dropped in the UTO Blue Box – when combined with others at parish and diocesan celebrations, and finally within all the Episcopal Church, form a world-wide collection of offerings which are given away in the form of grants. These grants continue to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Church throughout the world. Every penny of these offerings is allocated for a grant.

The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission we encourage daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. During 2022, our diocese received and remitted \$1,843.37 during our spring ingathering and \$912.96 during our fall ingathering, for a total of \$2,756.33. During our Spring 2023 spring ingathering, our diocese received and remitted \$3,423.16. Our Fall 2023 Ingathering will take place on November 30, 2023. Please remit all monies to your Diocesan UTO Coordinator, Anita Anderson (St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Hinesville) at 344 Lewis Frasier Rd, Midway GA 31320 by December 15, 2023, so they may be remitted before the end of December.

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The United Thank Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anita Anderson

UTO Coordinator, Diocese of Georgia

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

The Episcopal Campus Ministry at Georgia Southern is in its second year partnering with UKirk from the 1st Presbyterian Church in Statesboro. This has proven to be a mutually beneficial relationship as we endeavor to heal the division within the Body of Christ and serve the needs of our students and campus community.

We meet every Tuesday evening during the academic year to share Eucharist, dinner, and discussions which serve to deepen our spiritual lives, our understanding of our common faith, ways to be of service to our community, and to just have fun being together.

Fr. Charles Todd, Rector of Trinity, Statesboro, is the Episcopal Missioner for this program and is in his seventh year serving the campus community.

The Rev. Charles Todd
Campus Minister

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Grace Café is a space of fellowship, prayer, and service for the Valdosta college student population. Housed within Louttit Hall, Grace Café's mission is to share Christ's love with college students in Valdosta. One of the ways we are doing that is by addressing food insecurity among college students. Grace Café can do this because of the love and support from the parishioners from Christ Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Georgia. Within Grace Café you will find

a calm, relaxing, and welcoming environment where students can come to shake off the worries from outside and feel God's love. Many express that it is like coming to their friends house, instead of just being on campus. Students come to the café to study, relax and recharge, pray, get coffee and snacks before going to class, and for fellowship. Grace Café provides all the snacks, coffee, donuts, and food from our food pantry for no charge. Our motto is: it's not cheap . . . it's free! Grace Café also hosts a free meal for all college students, Thursday Dinner, twice a month.

Grace Café reopened in August 2021 after the COVID-19 Pandemic and we began to rebuild the college ministry, advertising to students, and ensuring the college community in Valdosta there is a place they can call home. The college ministry is run by Abigail Easton, the Interim Director of College Ministry, plus a team of six interns: Maya Jones, Jacob Alward, Jean Lopez, Lauren McGuire, Polly Collins, and Cassidy Honeycutt. Throughout this year we have had a few interns graduate, and some part ways from the college ministry. Our previous director Charles Whiting, just recently left the position to pursue full time employment at Valdosta State University. We are so proud of Chip and so thankful for all the time he put into Grace Café. We have had amazing volunteers from the parish come for shifts to make up for any instances where there would not be two interns on duty. Of these, Jeri-Lyn Flowers, our College Ministry Team leader has given so much of her time and love into our cafe. Our newest addition to the team of interns is Polly Collins. Polly is a graduate student, and he is an international student from Uganda. We have five positions opening soon for the girl's house and two positions for the boy's house. We currently have applicants who are interested in becoming an intern, and we are looking to fill the positions ASAP. We also welcome any applicants from other parishes to come join us. We will also be looking to fill a paid Director position at the end of the semester, as Abigail is leaving to finish graduate school and get married. One of the newest changes in our College Ministry this year is the establishment of a College Ministry Team of eight parishioners, led by Jeri-Lyn Flowers, to

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help support and facilitate relationships between the Grace Cafe interns and the parish of Christ Episcopal Church. The members of the team include: Steffani Carroll, Krystle Black, Michelle Weidman, Nikki Yarborough, Chris Rutland, Charles Whiting, and Hal Weidman. Charles wanted to stay involved, even though he could not continue on as the director of college ministry, due to his new job at Valdosta State University. The team has been incredible in its support of and presence at Thursday Dinners.

Grace Café has seen an increase in attendance since its reopening in the Fall of 2021. With the costs of living continuing to rise, we seen the impact we have on the college community here in Valdosta. We have had 4,401 students sign in so far this year and we are seeing more than the previous year. Many have seen the flyers we have posted up around campus advertising the café, some have come with friends, and others have come to the café out of curiosity due to our neon coffee and open signs. We've also been mentioned on social media, where students are encouraging others to come to the café. And we have increased on campus cooperation by hosting an event during the fall semester with the VSU Latin American Student Association to celebrate Day of the Dead and to observe the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed.

This year Thursday Dinner has fed over one hundred and sixty students so far. We've held Thursday Dinner four times in Spring 2023 and five times in Fall 2023. Two dinners were canceled due to impacts from Hurricane Idalia. We have hosted all of our Thursday Dinners within Grace Café and we have seen a return to family style dinners with our students. We are looking forward to the coming semester where we will be hosting Thursday Dinners twice a month.

We have been impacted this semester by Hurricane Idalia and had to cancel one of our Thursday Dinners and were closed for a week and a half

because we were without power. Our Interns were kindly housed by parishioners and our cafe was cleaned and put back in working order by the interns and members of the College Ministry team. It was a great reminder of the blessings that we have and how fortunate we all are to be able to re-open and be here for the students.

Grace Café is now an on-campus organization at Valdosta State, registered as the Episcopal College Ministry and we have posting events and promoting the college ministry on campus. We attended the VSU Happening and had a successful turnout of parishioners to share God's love with the Valdosta community and to showcase what Grace Café is doing for students. It was such a blessing to have the parishioners help! We have also opened doors to promote Grace Café to Wiregrass Tech and Georgia Military College and have information going out to share with students in need. We have successfully run programming every Thursday evening this year and in the fall we expanded to run events on Mondays as well. We have held Art Nights, Knitting lessons, and Pumpkin Carving. The turnout and enthusiasm from the students has been so encouraging as we strive to expand our current footprint. We hope to be fully staffed so we can continue to be innovative in how we have fun and fellowship with the students.

Abigail Easton
Interim Director of College Ministry
Christ Church, Valdosta

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2023 has been a year of growth and settling into new rhythms with our children and youth events. We have fully restarted two of our core programs, Happening and New Beginnings, and are approaching participation levels that were seen prior to pandemic. In the coming year, our hope is to begin to offer additional programs that were part of our pre-Covid lineup. These include Winter Youth Retreats, Toil 'N Sweat weekends, Acolyte Festival, and other gatherings.

This past summer the Diocese of Georgia was well represented at the triennial Episcopal Youth Event. This event gathers youth from across the whole

CONVENTION REPORTS

Church for an amazing week of worship, learning, and play. Our delegation was one of the largest present, with seventeen youth and five adults, including Bishop Logue. As a result of the success of this event, we have several youth who are interested in other inter-diocesan youth events. Some of these youth will be traveling to the Province IV Youth Leadership meeting in the first week of December. The meeting will be held at Camp St. Christopher, in the Diocese of South Carolina.

One of the foundational pieces of any ministry with children and youth is the ability to ensure a safe environment for them. The Diocesan Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth which were updated in September 2022 by Diocesan Council went into effect for Diocesan Activities at the start of 2023. Council's expectation is that each congregation has now either adopted and come into compliance with these policies, which include training and background checks for not just youth and children's ministers but for many others as well, especially those who have unfettered access to church buildings by way of a personal key or knowledge of a code that allows entry. If your congregation still needs assistance making this transition, please contact Canon Varner without delay.

Diocesan staff are also ready to assist with congregational ministry with children and youth. Canon Varner would love to talk on the phone, exchange emails, or come to your congregation for a Sunday or a weekday event! Please contact him to set up visits and with any questions or ideas you have about ministry with children and youth.

Canon Joshua Varner
Canon for Program and Liturgy



2022 AUDIT

BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA, INC. AND OPERATING ENTITY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31,	
	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 575,309	\$ 1,133,821
Accounts Receivable	29,009	39,889
Other current assets	32,139	41,513
Total current assets	636,457	1,215,223
Property and equipment, net	1,258,047	1,294,541
Total assets	\$ 1,894,504	\$ 2,509,764
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 68,621	\$ 65,314
Current portion of long-term debt	-	8,775
Deferred revenue	5,950	8,050
Loans from Endowment Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia	500,755	500,755
Total current liabilities	575,326	582,894
Note payable - non-current	-	732,373
Total liabilities	575,326	1,315,267
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	1,142,855	958,023
With donor restrictions	176,323	236,474
Total net assets	1,319,178	1,194,497
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,894,504	\$ 2,509,764

2022 AUDIT

	Diocese				Camp Total	Intercompany Eliminations	Total
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total				
Support and revenues							
Parish and aided parish pledges and donations	\$ 1,633,493	\$ -	\$ 1,633,493	\$ 64,543	\$ (12,776)	\$ 1,685,260	
Bond debt reserve assessment	308,077	-	308,077	-	-	308,077	
Meetings, group, and lodging	-	-	-	224,963	-	224,963	
Special purpose income	102,870	97,259	200,129	-	(11,477)	188,652	
Trust income	97,588	-	97,588	-	-	97,588	
Episcopal Church camps	-	-	-	114,331	(52,231)	62,100	
Other revenue	33,814	-	33,814	(526)	(2,800)	30,488	
Investment income	965	-	965	-	-	965	
Net assets released from restrictions	157,410	(157,410)	-	-	-	-	
Total support and revenues	<u>2,334,217</u>	<u>(60,151)</u>	<u>2,274,066</u>	<u>403,311</u>	<u>(79,284)</u>	<u>2,598,093</u>	
Expenses							
Salaries	570,098	-	570,098	36,554	-	606,652	
Employee benefits and taxes	347,985	-	347,985	24,576	-	372,561	
General convention assessment	269,843	-	269,843	-	-	269,843	
Special purpose distributions	268,455	-	268,455	-	(11,477)	256,978	
Rent and utilities	90,899	-	90,899	56,967	-	147,866	
Diocesan support distributions	156,682	-	156,682	-	(12,776)	143,906	
Dining room and food costs	-	-	-	133,343	-	133,343	
Depreciation	41,725	-	41,725	49,830	-	91,555	
Supplies	98,331	-	98,331	36,501	(51,596)	83,236	
Insurance	30,466	-	30,466	46,844	-	77,310	
Interest	68,350	-	68,350	-	-	68,350	
Repairs and maintenance	33,075	-	33,075	34,104	-	67,179	
Program costs	49,694	-	49,694	-	(635)	49,059	
Housekeeping	-	-	-	34,609	-	34,609	
Travel	35,013	-	35,013	-	-	35,013	
Professional fees	21,370	-	21,370	-	-	21,370	
Miscellaneous	2,800	-	2,800	14,582	(2,800)	14,582	
Total expenses	<u>2,084,786</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,084,786</u>	<u>467,910</u>	<u>(79,284)</u>	<u>2,473,412</u>	
Change in net assets	<u>249,431</u>	<u>(60,151)</u>	<u>189,280</u>	<u>(64,599)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,681</u>	
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>628,817</u>	<u>236,474</u>	<u>865,291</u>	<u>329,206</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,194,497</u>	
Net assets - end of year	<u>\$ 878,248</u>	<u>\$ 176,323</u>	<u>\$ 1,054,571</u>	<u>\$ 264,607</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,319,178</u>	

NOTE 11 - Net Assests without donor restrictions

Amounts designated by the Organization for specific purposes are noted below. The Diocesan Administrator with the approval of the Finance Committee determines these amounts. The following schedule presents the balances as of December 31, 2022 and 2021.

	2022	2021
Emergency reserve	165,459	\$ 165,459
Bishop's visitation	33,556	33,030
Episcopal transition	13,316	13,316
Memorials	3,405	3,405
Synod travel	551	2,418
Diocesan Convention	192	3,918
Honey Creek bond reserve	-	318,166
Clergy interns	-	36,937
Lambeth	(11,510)	(4,712)
Convention travel	(12,858)	6,390
	\$ 192,111	\$ 578,327
Undesignated net assests without donor restrictions	950,744	379,696
Total net assets without donor restrictions	1,142,855	958,023

NOTE 12 - Net assets with donor restrictions

As of December 31, 2022 and 2021, amounts restricted by donors of the Organization for a specific purpose or time period are noted below:

	2022	2021
Augusta Church Plant	\$51,926	\$100,492
Georgia Southern	50,397	47,772
St. Anna Alexander Fund	22,581	49,097
Youth counselor education	15,149	15,149
St. Joseph's Community Fund	13,611	12,510
Clergy education	13,447	12,895
Georgia Lynching Memorial Fund	12,109	11,478
Youth Mission	10,833	10,833
Other	7,190	(857)
Deacon Lynn Anderson Fund	6,415	6,175
DFMS Leadership Formation	1,123	1,123
Campaign for Mission	35	4,643
Epiphany Church Plant	(28,493)	(34,836)
	\$176,323	\$236,474

2022 TITHES (10%)

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA For the Twelve Months Ending Monday, December 31, 2022

	10% Pledge Amt	Actual	Variance
Albany Convocation			
St. John & St. Mark, Albany	\$ 14,188	\$14,188	\$0
St. Patrick's, Albany	21,061	21,061	0
St. Paul's, Albany	33,717	34,228	511
Calvary, Americus	30,769	31,569	800
Holy Trinity, Blakely	1,162	0	(1,162)
Christ, Cordele	16,374	16,374	0
Holy Spirit, Dawson	1,527	3,389	1,862
St. Matthew's, Fitzgerald	1,069	1,082	13
St. Anne's, Tifton	47,868	47,868	0
Total Albany Convocation	167,735	169,759	2,024
Augusta Convocation			
Atonement, Augusta	4,493	4,538	45
Christ, Augusta	167	167	0
Good Shepherd, Augusta	143,583	143,912	329
St. Alban's, Augusta	14,043	14,074	31
St. Augustine, Augusta	40,678	40,678	0
St. Mary's, Augusta	6,034	6,407	373
St. Paul's, Augusta	68,700	68,700	0
Holy Comforter, Martinez	33,448	33,448	0
Our Savior, Martinez	23,598	25,572	974
Holy Cross, Thomson	2,683	0	(2,683)
St. Michael's, Waynesboro	14,116	14,813	697
Total Augusta Convocation	351,543	352,309	(234)
Southeastern Convocation			
St. Thomas Aquinas, Baxley	1,349	1,478	129
St. Athanasius, Brunswick	6,838	6,838	0
St. Mark's, Brunswick	63,626	63,626	0
St. Andrew's, Darien	29,224	29,224	0
St. Cyprian's, Darien	5,169	4,785	0
St. Andrew's, Douglas	2,941	2,941	0
St. Richards, Jekyll Island	3,700	2,700	(1,000)
St. Paul's, Jesup	17,259	20,064	2,805
King of Peace, Kingsland	21,885	21,891	6
Good Shepherd, Pennick	1,850	0	(1,850)
Christ, St. Mary's	14,795	14,945	150
Christ, Frederica	126,572	126,572	0
Holy Nativity, St. Simons Island	17,104	17,104	0
Grace, Waycross	13,037	13,582	545
St. Mark's, Woodbine	2,078	2,078	0
Total Southeastern Convocation	327,427	328,212	785

2022 TITHES (10%)

	10% Pledge Amt	Actual	Variance
Central Convocation			
Trinity, Cochran	4,367	5,112	745
Christ, Dublin	8,300	8,300	0
St. Luke's, Hawkinsville	12,857	12,857	0
St. Mary Magdalene, Louisville	4,790	4,790	0
Grace, Sandersville	5,626	5,626	0
Trinity, Statesboro	21,611	22,944	1,333
Good Shepherd, Swainsboro	2,957	2,957	0
Annunciation, Vidalia	15,262	15,272	10
Total Central Convocation	75,770	77,858	2,088
Savannah Convocation			
St. Bartholomew's, Savannah	167	167	0
St. Philip's, Hinesville	4,203	4,263	60
St. Patrick's, Pooler	5,252	5,770	518
St. Elizabeth's, Richmond Hill	18,843	18,843	0
St. Luke's, Rincon	1,591	1,292	(299)
Christ, Savannah	95,029	95,029	0
St. Francis of the Islands, Savannah	19,577	19,577	0
St. George's, Savannah	12,654	12,704	50
St. John's, Savannah	151,186	151,186	0
St. Matthew's, Savannah	9,561	9,561	0
St. Michael & All Angels, Savannah	17,929	2,500	(15,429)
St. Paul's, Savannah	40,228	40,228	0
St. Peter's, Savannah	82,686	82,686	0
St. Thomas, Savannah	42,269	42,354	85
All Saints, Tybee	13,927	13,931	4
Total Savannah Convocation	515,102	500,091	(15,011)
Southwestern Convocation			
St. John's, Bainbridge	6,944	6,944	0
St. Margaret's, Moultrie	6,333	6,333	0
St. James', Quitman	4,785	5,043	258
All Saints', Thomasville	66,103	66,103	0
Good Shepherd, Thomaville	2,006	0	(2,006)
St. Thomas', Thomasville	26,399	29,797	3,398
Christ Church, Valdosta	63,581	63,784	203
Christ the King, Valdosta	15,474	17,068	1,594
St. Barnabas', Valdosta	9,818	9,818	0
Total Southwestern Convocation	201,443	204,891	3,447
Total Pledges	1,639,020	1,633,120	(6,901)

2022 TITHES (2%)

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

For the Twelve Months Ending Monday, December 31, 2022

	2% Pledge Amt	Actual	Variance
Albany Convocation			
St. John & St. Mark, Albany	\$ 2,838	\$ 2,838	0
St. Patrick's, Albany	4,212	4,212	0
St. Paul's, Albany	6,743	6,743	0
Calvary, Americus	6,154	6,154	0
Holy Trinity, Blakely	232	0	(232)
Christ, Cordele	3,275	0	(3,275)
Holy Spirit, Dawson	305	305	0
St. Matthew's, Fitzgerald	214	214	0
St. Anne's, Tifton	4,787	4,787	0
Total Albany Convocation	28,760	25,253	(3,507)
Augusta Convocation			
Atonement, Augusta	899	899	0
Christ, Augusta	33	33	0
Good Shepherd, Augusta	28,717	28,717	0
St. Alban's, Augusta	2,809	2,452	(357)
St. Augustine, Augusta	8,136	8,136	0
St. Mary's, Augusta	1,207	1,207	0
St. Paul's, Augusta	13,740	13,740	0
Holy Comforter, Martinez	6,690	6,008	(682)
Our Savior, Martinez	4,720	4,720	0
Holy Cross, Thomson	537	0	(537)
St. Michael's, Waynesboro	2,823	2,823	0
Total Augusta Convocation	70,311	68,735	(1,576)
Southeastern Convocation			
St. Thomas Aquinas, Baxley	270	270	0
St. Athanasius, Brunswick	1,368	1,368	0
St. Mark's, Brunswick	12,725	12,725	0
St. Andrew's, Darien	5,845	5,845	0
St. Cyprian's, Darien	1,034	1,034	0
St. Andrew's, Douglas	588	588	0
St Richards, Jekyll Island	740	0	(740)
St. Paul's, Jesup	3,452	3,452	0
King of Peace, Kingsland	4,377	4,377	0
Good Shepherd, Pennick	370	0	(370)
Christ, St. Mary's	2,959	2,690	(269)
Christ, Frederica	25,314	25,314	0
Holy Nativity, St. Simons Island	3,421	2,490	0
Grace, Waycross	2,607	2,607	0
St. Mark's, Woodbine	416	291	(125)
Total Southeastern Convocation	65,486	64,107	(1,504)

2022 TITHES (2%)

	2% Pledge Amt	Actual	Variance
Central Convocation			
Trinity, Cochran	873	873	0
Christ, Dublin	1,660	1,660	0
St. Luke's, Hawkinsville	2,571	2,571	0
St. Mary Magdalene, Louisville	958	948	(10)
Grace, Sandersville	1,125	195	(930)
Trinity, Statesboro	4,322	4,322	0
Good Shepherd, Swainsboro	591	295	(296)
Annunciation, Vidalia	3,052	3,052	0
Total Central Convocation	15,152	13,916	(1236)
Savannah Convocation			
St. Bartholomew's, Savannah	33	33	0
St. Philip's, Hinesville	841	841	0
St. Patrick's, Pooler	1,050	1,050	0
St. Elizabeth's, Richmond Hill	3,769	3,769	0
St. Luke's, Rincon	318	0	(318)
Christ, Savannah	19,006	19,006	0
St. Francis of the Islands, Savannah	3,915	3,915	0
St. George's, Savannah	2,531	2,531	0
St. John's, Savannah	30,237	30,237	0
St. Matthew's, Savannah	1,912	339	(1,573)
St. Michael & All Angels, Savannah	3,586	0	(3,586)
St. Paul's, Savannah	8,046	8,046	0
St. Peter's, Savannah	16,537	16,537	0
St. Thomas, Savannah	8,454	8,454	0
All Saints, Tybee	2,785	2,785	0
Total Savannah Convocation	103,020	97,543	(5,477)
Southwestern Convocation			
St. John's, Bainbridge	1,389	1,389	0
St. Margaret's, Moultrie	1,267	1,151	(116)
St. James', Quitman	957	957	0
All Saints', Thomasville	13,221	13,221	0
Good Shepherd, Thomaville	401	0	401
St. Thomas', Thomasville	5,280	5,280	0
Christ Church, Valdosta	12,716	12,716	0
Christ the King, Valdosta	3,095	3,095	0
St. Barnabas', Valdosta	1,964	1,964	0
Total Southwestern Convocation	40,290	39,773	(285)
Total Pledges	323,019	309,327	(13,585)

2024 TITHES

Proposed 2024

Albany Convocation

St. John & St. Mark's, Albany	13,684
St. Patrick's, Albany**	19,866
St. Paul's, Albany	45,733
Calvary, Americus	29,295
Holy Trinity, Blakely	481
Christ Church, Cordele	14,509
Holy Spirit, Dawson	1,309
St. Matthew's, Fitzgerald	1,386
St. Anne's, Tifton	45,782
Total Albany Convocation	\$172,045

Augusta Convocation

Atonement, Augusta	4,037
Christ Church, Augusta	200
Good Shepherd, Augusta**	136,160
St. Alban's, Augusta	13,955
St. Augustine of Canterbury, Augusta	43,743
St. Mary's, Augusta	4,385
St. Paul's, Augusta	96,324
Holy Comforter, Martinez	32,511
Our Savior, Martinez	28,443
Holy Cross, Thomson	0
St. Michael's, Waynesboro	14,915
Total Augusta Convocation	\$374,673

Southeastern Convocation

St. Thomas Aquinas, Baxley	1,171
St. Athanasius, Brunswick*	2,783
St. Mark's, Brunswick	64,938
St. Andrew's, Darien	29,249
St. Cyprian's, Darien	6,072
St. Andrew's, Douglas*	120
St. Richard's, Jekyll Island	0
St. Paul's, Jesup	15,067
King of Peace, Kingsland	20,765
Good Shepherd, Pennick	500
Christ, St. Marys	13,581
Christ, Frederica, St. Simons Island	123,554
Holy Nativity, St. Simons Island	21,807
Grace, Waycross	13,701
St. Mark's, Woodbine	5,354
Total Southeastern Convocation	\$318,662

**PPP waiver granted

Central Convocation

Trinity, Cochran	4,545
Christ, Dublin	8,585
St. Luke's, Hawkinsville	11,306
St. Mary Magdalene, Louisville	5,060
Grace, Sandersville	6,217
Trinity, Statesboro	21,566
Good Shepherd, Swainsboro	2,412
Annunciation, Vidalia	15,860
Total Central Convocation	\$75,551

Savannah Convocation

St. Bartholomew's, Savannah	200
St. Philip's, Hinesville*	8,987
St. Patrick's, Pooler	5,061
St. Elizabeth's, Richmond Hill*	9,659
St. Luke's, Rincon*	4,665
Christ Church, Savannah	106,579
St. Francis, Savannah	18,309
St. George's, Savannah*	4,731
St. John's, Savannah**	159,752
St. Matthew's, Savannah*	12,000
St. Michael & All Angels, Savannah	0
St. Paul's, Savannah	40,848
St. Peter's, Savannah	80,501
St. Thomas, Savannah	45,915
All Saints, Tybee Island	13,802
Total Savannah Convocation	\$511,009

Southwestern Convocation

St. John's, Bainbridge	6,483
St. Margaret's, Moultrie*	500
St. James, Quitman	4,586
All Saints, Thomasville	70,523
Good Shepherd, Thomasville*	1,111
St. Thomas, Thomasville*	9,343
Christ Church, Valdosta	56,776
Christ the King, Valdosta	13,348
St. Barnabas, Valdosta	6,188
Total Southwestern Convocation	\$168,858

TOTAL PLEDGES \$1,620,798

*indicates congregations granted an appeal

2024 DRAFT BUDGET

Diocesan Mission & Ministry

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 DRAFT
Revenue			
Pledges from Congregations	\$1,633,493	\$1,616,000	\$1,603,000
Honey Creek 2% Assessment	\$308,077	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$795	\$1,000	\$1,000
Income from Endowment	\$97,588	\$90,000	\$95,000
Interest	\$965	\$500	\$500
Registration for Diocesan Convention	\$20,655	\$25,000	\$32,000
Other Workshop Registration	\$2,265	\$15,000	\$15,000
Events Fee	\$42,988	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Income	\$33,814	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$2,140,640	\$1,747,500	\$1,746,500

Mission Outside the Diocese

The Episcopal Church	\$269,843	\$229,000	\$229,662
Province IV of TEC	\$1,345	\$2,500	\$2,000
Voorhees College	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
St. Augustine's University	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
University of the South	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Dominican Development Group	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$287,188	\$247,500	\$247,662

Mission Inside the Diocese

Congregation Mission Development	\$47,982	\$54,000	\$45,000
Hispanic Ministry Development	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Campus Ministry	\$39,555	\$40,000	\$40,000
Program Scholarships	\$2,800	\$6,000	\$4,000
Youth Program Supplies	\$30,773	\$14,000	\$15,000
Other Diocesan Program Costs	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$2,000
Deacon School For Ministry	\$3,224	\$3,000	\$3,000
Clergy and Lay Leader Training	\$44,471	\$45,000	\$45,000
Program Lodging/Meals at Honey Creek	\$52,311	\$15,000	\$15,000
Meeting Travel	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Subtotal	\$248,116	\$215,000	\$196,000

Episcopal Ministries

Diocesan Staff Salaries	\$570,097	\$605,876	\$625,394
Housing Allowance	\$56,500	\$54,500	\$56,500
Lay Employee Pension	\$28,870	\$33,850	\$35,110
Clergy Pension	\$52,303	\$62,370	\$64,098
Health Insurance for Diocesan Staff	\$153,815	\$167,467	\$176,592
Employer FICA	\$25,019	\$33,660	\$26,859
Social Security Clergy Supplement	\$23,103	\$24,624	\$23,305
Staff Travel	\$32,138	\$40,000	\$35,000
Meals/Entertainment of Diocesan Guests	\$5,033	\$3,500	\$3,000

2024 DRAFT BUDGET

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 DRAFT
(Episcopal Ministries, Cont'd)			
Continuing Education for Staff	\$417	\$1,500	\$1,500
Conference Registration for Staff	\$2,925	\$7,000	\$5,000
Convocational Deans	\$16,800	\$16,800	\$16,800
Honey Creek Debt Reduction	\$308,077	\$0	\$0
Diocesan Honey Creek 2% Portion	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$1,315,097	\$1,051,147	\$1,069,158
Diocesan Administration			
Utilities	\$5,535	\$5,500	\$5,500
Office Administration	\$30,574	\$15,000	\$15,000
Internet & Telecom	\$5,090	\$5,500	\$5,100
IT Systems	\$35,976	\$31,000	\$31,000
Administrative Costs	\$19,470	\$15,000	\$12,000
Office Equipment	\$1,682	\$5,000	\$4,000
Printing	\$1,547	\$4,000	\$3,000
Insurance: Retirees and Group Life	\$5,647	\$12,000	\$6,000
Insurance: Disability	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Insurance: Commercial and Automobile	\$24,819	\$24,000	\$33,799
Reserves: General Convention & Lambeth	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Reserves: Episcopal Transition	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Background Checks: Clergy & Lay	\$3,218	\$3,000	\$6,000
Candidates Testing & Screening	\$4,100	\$7,000	\$9,000
Diocesan Convention Facility Rent	\$5,423	\$5,000	\$5,000
Diocesan Convention Meals & Catering	\$38,875	\$35,000	\$35,000
Audit Fees	\$20,400	\$21,000	\$20,000
Chancellor Administration & Travel	\$228	\$1,000	\$1,000
Chancellor Legal Expenses	\$225	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other Legal Costs	\$517	\$2,000	\$2,000
Property Improvements	\$33,075	\$5,000	\$5,000
Maintenance Reserve	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Diocesan House Loan	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$262,401	\$231,000	\$233,399
Expense Total	\$2,112,802	\$1,744,647	\$1,746,219
Operating Reserve	\$27,838	\$2,853	\$281

ANNOTATIONS ON THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

RESOURCES

Tithes (\$1,603,000) – Total pledges budgeted for 2023 were \$1.62 million, and the 2024 budget is based on the tithes requested as adjusted by the Diocesan Council annually for appeals from those below the 10% standard. Revenue for 2024 continues a slight downward turn.

Endowment Income (\$95,000) – Of the \$12.5 million in assets the Board of the Corporation manages, about \$2.5 million of those assets produce income for use in the annual budget. The range for income draw is in the 4% range to ensure continued recovery in the value of equities.

Interest Income (\$500) – This is the anticipated interest on the savings and operating account with Wells Fargo.

Designated Gifts/

Donations(\$1,000) – Every year we receive special gifts that are designated for the current year's mission and ministry. Engagement in annual gifts is typically low.

Program Registration Fees

(\$47,000) — This amount includes registrations for the diocesan convention, and Diocesan events such as clergy conferences, youth events such as Happening, and program revenue from other Diocese activities are reflected directly in the Honey Creek budget. This figure can be higher or lower based on attendance.

MISSION

OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE

The Episcopal Church (TEC)

(\$229,662) – This amount is the 15% asking of The Episcopal Church. It is calculated on the previous year's normal operating income submitted in the Diocesan parochial report.

Province IV of TEC (\$2,000)-

Supports the provincial mission, primarily in youth work, college chaplaincies, and other mission activities. This is a percentage calculated asking.

Sewanee (\$2,000) – As an “owning” diocese of the University of the South, we have an obligation to contribute to its support.

St. Augustine's University

(\$2,000) – A historically black college founded by the Episcopal Church in Raleigh, NC in Province IV.

Vorhees College

(\$2,000) – A historically black college founded by the Episcopal Church in Denmark, SC in Province IV.

Dominican Development Group

(\$10,000) – 8 Dioceses send financial support the American-based Dominican Development Group which provides financial, logistic, and planning support for mission groups and Dioceses traveling to the Dominican Republic.

MISSION INSIDE THE DIOCESE

Congregation Mission

Development: (\$45,000) – This amount supplements the mission development at new parishes, provides matching fund grants to congregations, and funds curacies in the Diocese for seminarians raised by the Diocese.

Hispanic Ministry Development

(\$25,000) – funding for Spanish-speaking ministry development in the Diocese. Current support is provided to the work at San Pablo in Savannah, GA.

Campus Ministries

(\$40,000) – This represents the diocesan commitment to all of our campus ministries at Georgia Southern, Valdosta State, Augusta University,

and the colleges and universities in Savannah.

Program Scholarships

(\$4,000) – This figure supports the need for scholarship support to youth programs. If the need exceeds the budget, then funds are identified. Youth are never turned away from a Diocesan youth event due to financial need.

Program Costs (\$82,000) – These line items include the costs for Youth programs, clergy conferences, Leading with Grace, Conflict Management Training, and other program supplies and costs.

EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES

Staff Salaries (\$625,394) – This line item includes, in addition to diocesan staff, the administrative staff of Honey Creek. The amount allows for modest staff compensation increases.

Clergy Housing (\$56,500) – A portion of clergy salaries are classified as housing allowance for tax purposes.

Staff Pensions (\$99,208) – 18% for clergy and 10% for lay employees as required by the Church Pension Group.

Staff Health Insurance (\$176,592) – This represents an increase due to premium increases of 8%.

Social Security (\$50,164) – 7.65% employer's portion for lay staff members and a 7.65% supplement for clergy so their compensation is balanced for tax purposes.

Travel, Meals & Hospitality

(\$38,000) – While most of this line item is for the Bishop's travel, it also covers travel expenses for the Canons as they exercise their ministry in the diocese. This includes money for the Bishop and Canons to use when hosting others.

ANNOTATIONS ON THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

Conference Registration and Continuing Education (\$6,500)

– Continuing education and conference costs for diocesan staff and their participation in meetings with other Canons in Province IV and across The Episcopal Church.

Convocational Deans (\$16,800)

– Cost for reimbursement of all expenses related to the six deans' and archdeacon's ministry in their respective convocations.

DIOCESAN

ADMINISTRATION

Diocesan Office Expenses (\$75,600)

– Costs for building maintenance, internet and telecom, information systems, supplies and equipment. We've continued to find ways to reduce these costs significantly over the years.

Insurance: Retiree, Group Life, Disability (\$9,000) – This line item goes to pay for some retired clergy's and lay employee health insurance, staff group life benefit, and lay disability coverage.

Insurance: Commercial and Auto (\$33,800) -Includes worker compensation, liability, property, and auto insurance for the diocesan car. We experienced higher than average increase of 30% from the previous year.

General Convention Travel (\$15,000) – Costs for reimbursing travel & lodging expenses for our Bishop and our eight deputies. This is typically on a three-year cycle. However, due to the pandemic, the next is in two years. Increased set-aside to meet the anticipated costs. This will not meet the need for all related expenses.

Lambeth Travel (\$1,000) – Lambeth is a meeting of all the bishops in the Anglican Communion once every

ten years. This line item represents one-tenth of the expected cost for our Bishop to attend the next conference.

Episcopal Transition (\$5,000) – This annual set aside is transferred into a designated fund so when we elect a new bishop we will have the funds needed for the transition.

Clergy Candidate Testing and Screening (\$15,000) – This line item contains elements of canonical responsibility in support of the mission. Includes background checks and other Commission on Ministry work. We have an increased number in the process, and reflects increasing costs.

Diocesan Convention (\$40,000) – These expenses are offset mainly by income shown on the budget's revenue side to support our annual Diocesan Convention. Increased the anticipated cost due to the rise in the cost of hosting a significant event.

Audit (\$20,000) – The audit includes Honey Creek together with all other diocesan operations. Includes the audit for the Board of the Corporation Endowment Funds.

Chancellor Administration & Travel (\$1,000) – This covers the administrative and travel expenses of our chancellors.

Chancellor Legal Contingency and Other Legal Costs (\$3,000) – While most of the work of our chancellors is pro bono, there are occasions when we need to seek some limited outside legal counsel. This line item covers that contingency.

Property Improvements and Reserve (\$6,000) – This line item will go each year to improvements of the property and establish a maintenance reserve for future efforts.

Diocesan House Loan (\$10,000) – The Diocese borrowed money

against the Spencer Connerat Fund to purchase the Diocesan Office. Now that the bond debt has been paid, the Diocese will make annual paybacks into the fund.

HONEY CREEK DRAFT BUDGET 2024

	2022 Actual	2023 Total Year Budget	2024 Budget HC	Diocese
Revenue				
Diocesan Progam Fees	\$104,331	\$140,000	\$120,000	
Diocesan Summer Camp Fees	32,000	60,000	30,000	
Meetings, Groups, Lodging	224,963	180,000	200,000	
Wedding Event Fees	0	6,000	6,000	
Facility Use w/o Lodging	0	20,000	20,000	
Motel Room Tax Paid	(1,184)	(2,000)	(2,000)	
GA Sales Tax Paid	(7,806)	(8,000)	(8,000)	
Gifts and Donations to HC Unrestricted	64,542	85,000	75,000	
Endowment Income for HC	0	0	0	
Refunds	(527)	0	0	
Diocesan Subsidy	12,776	0	0	
Interest Income HC	0	0	0	
Total Revenue	429,095	481,000	441,000	
Operating Expenses				
Employee-Related Expenses				
Camp and Conf Ctr Salary	32,500	52,500	32,500	93,500
Summer Camp Salary	13,330	35,000	20,000	
Diocesan Staff Benefits	16,373	14,122	15,602	14,705
Employer FICA	3,506	5,164	4,093	7,153
Staff Travel	637	1,000	1,000	
Continuing Education	950	1,000	1,000	
Total Employee-Related Expenses	67,296	108,786	74,195	115,358
Contracts and Services				
Foodservice Contract	117,347	120,000	120,000	
Housekeeping Service Contract	31,801	45,000	30,000	
Building & Grounds Contract Labor	0	8,000	8,000	
Building & Grounds Maintenance	26,029	25,000	25,000	
Equipment Maintenance and Repair	12,209	12,000	12,000	
Pool Maintenance and Supply	9,910	8,000	8,000	
Waste Removal Service	6,090	8,000	6,000	
Supply				
Office Supply	2,916	4,000	4,000	
Programs and Meetings Supply	1,022	4,000	3,000	
Building and Grounds Supply	16,784	20,000	20,000	
Housekeeping Supply	6,213	4,500	6,000	
Gas and Diesel for Equipment and Auto	641	1,000	1,000	
Printing	0	1,500	1,000	

HONEY CREEK DRAFT BUDGET 2024

	2022 Actual	2023 Total Year Budget	2024 Budget HC	Diocese
Advertising	0	1,000	1,000	
Postage and Shipping	823	1,000	1,000	
Summer Camp Program Supply	5,369	5,500	5,500	
Utilities				
Electricity	45,803	42,000	45,000	
Propane	7,083	5,000	7,000	
Internet and Telecom	0	0	0	1440
IT Systems and Support	2,262	5,000	3,000	
Insurance, Fees and Banking				
Property Hazard and Flood Insurance	7,042	8,000	9,000	
Liability Insurance	17,842	37,600	41,360	
Workers Compensation Insurance	0	0	0	1,000
Auto Insurance	0	0	0	
Bank Fees CCC	2,488	6,000	6,000	
Total Other Operating Expenses	319,674	372,100	362,860	
Loan Interest				0
Total Operating Expenses	386,970	480,886	437,055	116,358
Income (Loss) from Operations	42,125	114	3,945	



2022 BOARD OF THE CORPORATION AUDIT

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA ENDOWMENT FUND STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	December 31, 2022	2021
ASSETS				
Investments				
Anson Dodge Home Fund	-	\$1,223,130	\$1,225,151	\$1,489,209
HM Byllesby Fund		444,905	444,905	522,296
Bishop Stuart Fund		211,829	211,829	260,183
Christ Church Frederica Fund		413,211	413,211	485,091
Spencer Connerat Fund	356,396		356,396	418,391
Endowment of Episcopate Fund	504,748		504,748	618,159
Episcopal Youth and Children's Fund		886,812	886,812	1,065,403
General Diocesan Fund	1,686,928		1,686,928	2,065,966
Mary Rhineland King Fund		2,974	2,974	3,491
James B. Lawrence Fund		6,085	6,085	7,145
St. Andrew's Darien Cemetery Fund		23,979	23,979	28,151
Trinity Church Cochran Fund		120,322	120,322	141,253
Calvary Episcopal Church Endowment		590,459	590,459	579,171
James H. Lewis Memorial Fund		66,444	66,444	78,001
Diocesan Mission Development Fund	94,102		94,102	110,471
St. John's Albany Flood Insurance Fund	791		791	929
Robert and Clara Black Fund		1,359,850	1,359,850	1,670,409
Episcopal Church of the Annunciation Fund		214,017	214,017	278,979
St. Anne's Organ Fund		116,850	116,850	137,177
The Agnes Wis Fund		207,112	207,112	243,138
Honey Creek Endowment		98,684	98,684	115,851
Robert A. Wolfe Trust		129,056	129,056	158,793
Paul Hoornstra Fund		120,198	120,198	141,106
Theological Education Fund		164,879	164,879	193,560
St. Richard's Mission Endowment Fund		68,658	68,658	80,599
Grace Episcopal Parish Endowment Fund		189,609	189,609	222,591
All Saints Tybee Mission Fund		478,816	478,816	562,106
St. James' Quitman Endowment Fund		170,391	170,391	212,663
St. Matthew's Savannah Endowment Fund		80,580	80,580	98,992
Legacy Fund of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church		142,684	142,684	167,796
Legacy Fund of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church - Vestry Designated		48,476	48,476	82,651
St. George's Episcopal Church Endowment		-	-	125,102
The Mary Hardwick Rawlings Endowment		234,279	234,279	285,998
St. Thomas Episcopal Church Endowment		144,547	144,547	169,691
St. Thomas Aquinas Baxley Endowment Fund		252,991	252,991	308,694
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Building Endowment Fund		524,018	524,018	615,172
Bishop Benhase Legacy Fund		14,776	14,776	16,084
Holy Cross Episcopal Church Endowment Fund		245,422	245,422	-
Total investments	2,642,965	8,996,043	11,641,029	13,760,462
Related party loan receivable	400,000		400,000	400,000
Loan receivable	20,000		20,000	20,000
Allowance for loan losses	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Net receivable	400,000	-	400,000	400,000
Total assets	\$3,042,965	\$ 8,996,043	\$12,041,029	\$14,160,462

THE PHILIDELPHIA ELEVEN



On Friday night of diocesan convention, the diocese will have the opportunity to screen the new feature length film [The Philadelphia Eleven](#). The movie documents the tribulations, the grace, and the courage of the first 11 women to be ordained to the priesthood in 1974, before the Episcopal Church officially allowed women to be ordained as priests. The film will be shown following the convention Eucharist and reception at Saint Paul's Church in Augusta.

July 29, 2024 will mark the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth-Campbell, Alison Cheek, Emily Hewitt, Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Marie Moorefield, Jeanette Piccard, Betty Schiess, Katrina Swanson, and Nancy Wittig by the Rt. Revs. Daniel Corrigan, Robert DeWitt, and Edward Welles II in a service at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia. As expected, the ordination brought much turmoil and strife to many in the Episcopal Church, and the women were ostracized. They lost friends, were harassed, and even banned from some church properties. And yet, they still felt a strong dedication to carry out their call.

The ordinations were originally considered “invalid,” and later categorized as “valid but irregular” because they followed the ordination service in the Book of Common Prayer and were performed by bishops in good standing. Once it was approved by General Convention in 1976, two years later, the ordinations were validated. We remember these women as trailblazers, light-bearers, and guides to what the Church could be. The first woman ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Georgia was the Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton in 1993.

CONVENTION RESOURCES

You will find many convention resources online by using the QR code below. This will lead you to links for the financial reports, convention book, convention website, and more. You may also go to bit.ly/GAConvention2023.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lay Minsters' Conference

When: December 1-2, 2023

Where: Honey Creek

This conference is intended for any lay person in the Diocese who is in any active ministry in their congregation. Led by Dr. Scott Bader-Saye, the Academic Dean and Professor of Christian Ethics at the Seminary of the Southwest, this conference will focus on the ministry of the laity, including its joys and challenges especially over the past two years. It will frame our various calls in the context living them in a world in which “Christendom” is no longer the dominant culture. [Click here to register](#) or scan the QR code above.

Clergy Conflict Transformation Workshop

Who: All clergy

Where: Honey Creek

When: March 4-8, 2024

Contact the Rev. Becky Rowell (browell221@gmail.com) and the Rev. Melanie Lemburg (revmelanie@stthomasioh.org) to RSVP.

Summer Camp 2024

High School Camp (finished grades 9-12): June 2-8, 2024

St. Peter (finished grades 6-8): June 9-15, 2024

St. Joseph & Mary (finished grades 3-5): June 16-22, 2024