



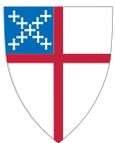
POHICK POST

 Pohick Episcopal Church

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May 2021



From The Rector
The Reverend
Dr. Lynn P. Ronaldi



Many of us have experienced the Risen Lord anew in our midst, as we return to in-person worship. Beginning Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and beyond, our spiritual eyes have been re-opened to the wonder of a community that loves one another deeply. We are

renewed as we gather around the table to hear the Word and to touch, see, and taste the signs, symbols and Sacraments. I can see it in your faces!

As I noted in a recent, post-Easter sermon, Pohickians are rediscovering our enchantment with the Lord!

Looking through enchanted eyes and paying attention to the signs and symbols of our faith, we are experiencing anew what it means to be a Child of God in a community of love. Together again, listening to the ancient story of Jesus' last supper, passion, death and resurrection, we are re-awakened to the miracle of resurrection: the harmony of the human and the divine. The wonder of Jesus' wounds transformed into glory.

The assurance of God's sacramental, ongoing, and transforming presence among us is precisely the message the Risen Jesus communicates to his disciples when he says: "*Peace be with you.*"



We have needed to hear this assurance, and hear it often, during the past year of pandemic lockdown and social upheaval. At times we have felt fearful, hopeless, and longing for community. We ached to come together and touch, taste, see and hear the healing balm of Word and Sacrament.



In one post-resurrection reading, the fearful, skeptical disciples cowering behind locked doors must see Jesus' wounds to understand this is no ghost, and no figment of their imagination. They perceive that it is precisely the sign and sacrament of wounds and a shared meal that assure them of the

Continued on page 2

From The Rector: continued from page 1

Risen Lord's ongoing presence, and his power to transform human fear, sin and suffering.

Ongoing experience of the Risen Lord was crucial for sustaining that early Christian community, suffering from persecution and oppression. In his First Letter, John reassures them that they can and do indeed experience God's ongoing, redemptive presence by opening their eyes wide to love in community.

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called Children of God," John writes. He passionately yearns for them to believe this: Born of the Father, God's children are capable of using their spiritual eyes and ears to perceive God's presence and reflect God's love to the world.

That ongoing experience of the Risen Lord is very much accessible to us today through the presence of His Holy Spirit in our midst, among us at Pohick.



We see many signs of renewal and re-creation. The new ways we have gathered are

becoming familiar, regular ways of being community. **Friday Fellowship** continues to gather outside, most recently in the Fairgrounds area. The **Youth** meet outside in the lower parking lot. **Stations of the Cross** in the Dogwood Chapel area help us contemplate the mysteries. We continue to reach out to the community-at-large via



drive-through events. Since regathering, we have welcomed several newcomers. Bishop Susan Goff will confirm/receive more than 20 Pohickians at a special service June 20. The weekend of June 25-27, Pohick will host a **Shrine Mont Lite weekend**. In July I will officiate two weddings, and in October, two more weddings!



Transitions continue as this month we bid farewell to two special leaders: **Music Minister Linda Wilberger Egan** and **seminarian Adam Lees**. They are embarking on new phases in life: Linda will retire from Pohick after almost 15 and a half years. Adam will discern God's call: perhaps in academics. We are so grateful for their ministry and presence.

Although we will miss their leadership, God is already breathing signs of new life at Pohick: **The Rev. Deacon Celal Kamran** joins our community as new Assistant to the Rector, and **David Leahey** joins us as new Music Minister. Furthermore, we have not one but two new VTS seminarians joining us soon. This summer, I will supervise **The Rev. Deacon Katherine Ferguson** who will work on Pohick's outreach to the **Hispanic community**. In the Fall and Spring 2021-22, I will supervise **The Rev. Deacon Michele Causton** who will help launch a **Military**



drive-through events. Since regathering, we have welcomed several newcomers. Bishop Susan Goff will confirm/receive more than 20 Pohickians at a special service June 20. The weekend of June 25-27, Pohick will host a **Shrine Mont Lite weekend**. In July I will officiate two weddings, and in October, two more weddings!

Continued on page 3

From The Rector: continued from page 2

Family Support Group. We have been blessed by the rapid responses to our diligent searches with God's guidance.

In what appears to be a trend (perhaps due to re-assessment of life during the pandemic), two of our staff will retire this summer. Our outstanding Administrator and Co-Editor of the *Pohick Post*, **Carmel Hodge**, retires in June to sail around the world.



Our wonderful Youth Director, **Rusty Booth**, will retire in July. Searches are afoot to fill their positions. Please pray for God's guidance and leading!

In this season of regathering and renewal, it is my fervent prayer that all our beloved community returns to worship and fellowship soon! I am most grateful for those who continue to work hard to make the in-person experience of the Risen Lord a safe and joyful experience. Many thanks to the **Re-Gathering Committee**, including **Stew Remaly, Tony Harriman, Connie Myers, Dave Billingsley, the acolyte, LEM, altar and flower guild ministry, music ministry**, and so many others.

I'm also especially grateful for the diligent work of the new **Digital Ministry Team**, including **Alex Hodge, Marc Abrams, John Wooten, John Sessums, Tom Ronaldi, and Chris Brown**. Although our live-stream option has been, and continues to be, accessible to those who are homebound, as well as visitors and seekers, I pray that all return to worship and fellowship in the coming



months! There are still plenty of spots open each Sunday (we received permission for an exception of 75 per indoor service). Hopefully we will regather fully soon!



For it is truly in community that the Beloved Children of God experience the presence of the Risen Lord! As we gather for Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit renews our sense of enchantment, wonder, and gratitude.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Lynn+





SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Stew Remaly, *Senior Warden*

What a difference a year makes and hallelujah for the vaccine! Thanks be to God that we are finally able to worship together in the church and have the chance to see each other both in person and virtually. As we head into the middle of the spring season, our parish is really bubbling with a wellspring of energy, renewed spirit, and activity. Thanks to all the volunteers - Ushers, Altar Guild, Digital Ministry Team, Choir, Acolytes - who helped set up and support all the services in the church in March and April and to those attending in person and online. Reverend Lynn and the entire staff have been hard at work keeping everyone spiritually informed, energized, and in commune with our Lord and Savior.

Thanks to the many volunteers who supported a number of activities in April. Edwardene Pitcock led another very successful Food Drive. Junior Warden Tony Harriman and Sexton John Sessums planned and executed another great Spring Cleanup event. Frances Sessums and the Ann Mason Guild provided joy to many local families during the Easter Egg Drive Through. A number of families and parishioners joined DJ Ben for Friday Night Fellowship led by Jen Crump-Strawderman, Courtney Greathouse, and Pierce Prior. Neil Sunderland and the Pohick Cleanup Crew helped bring new life to Shrine Mont during the work weekends in April and May.

The Vestry had a very productive Zoom April Vestry Meeting.

- The Vestry approved:
 - o The Treasurer Report for March.
 - o The minutes for March.
- Discussed a number of projects for spring clean-up and future building and grounds work.
- Received update on Digital Ministry capabilities and continued upgrades.
- Received guidance from the Rector to continue the two-service schedule (7:45 am and 9:00 am) on Sundays until further notice.
- Reverend Lynn and Connie Myers are working on Linda Egan's Retirement and Recognition of Service scheduled for Sunday, May 16.
- Received update from the Junior Warden about a possible grant application to support improvements

to campus security.

• Mission and Outreach: Thanks to all who continue to support the monthly food drive. Pohick donated 1,360 lbs of food to LCAC and \$452 donation for the Kennedy Shelter. A meeting is planned to discuss the future of the Fair and Apple Butter on April 29 via Zoom. See the church website for details.

• Resources - John Pasour: Giving was below historical average for March. Remaining in good financial shape to date.

• Planning and Policy - Dave Billingsly: Continuing to revise the in-gathering process and adapt to new procedures/protocols for indoor worship.

• Pastoral Care - Patty Mitchell: Community of Hope continues to minister to those in need of prayer and healing; Agape Group supported three transportation calls; Kathy Kirkland has prayer shawls for those in need; Parish Nurse continues outreach to those in need.

• Christian Education - Jen Crump-Strawderman: Thanks to all who supported the Easter youth activities. Over 90 bags of goodies were distributed to the local community. Frances is starting plans for Vacation Bible School. Will need volunteers.

• Stewardship - Mike Elston: Mike is meeting with Reverend Lynn after Easter to discuss themes for the stewardship campaign for next year.

- Property - Tony Harriman:
 - o Spring Workday held on Saturday, April 24.
 - o Bathrooms are complete! Thanks to Rodger, Clint, Wendy, and Rusty.
 - o Scout Troop to present an Eagle Project to clean out storage containers and add shelving.
 - o Continuing to work on the Accessibility Ramp for the Church.

• Service and Fellowship - Connie Myers: Ann Mason Guild supported the Sunday School Easter Drive Through. Guilds and Brotherhood are continuing to hold meetings via Zoom.

• Communication - Jen Crump-Strawderman: Continuing to work on the web access and updating our service provider.

• Invite Welcome Connect - Marc Abrams: Two newcomers, Susan Jaskot and Gil Dickens, received welcome calls from Susanne Leon. IWC is making welcome bags for upcoming Services.

Continued on page 5

Senior Warden's Report: continued from page 4

• Young Adult and Family Thanks Ministry - Courtney Greathouse: Friday Fellowship with DJ Ben on the fairgrounds in April. Looking to start more outdoor events as the weather warms up.

• Digital Ministry - Marc Abrams: AV system for live streaming/recording services is up and running. Still working through some new system bugs. Working with the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew on setting up AV capability in the Annex. Working with Alex Smith and Alex Hodge on next steps for the ministry.



Martha Guild

The Martha Guild will hold a Zoom meeting on Monday, May 3, beginning at 7:30 pm. All women of the church are cordially invited to attend. The link to the zoom meeting will be posted on the Pohick website, pohick.org. Any questions, please contact Connie Myers, jetskiing@hotmail.com, or by phone 703-201-2204.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Frances Sessums, *Director of Christian Education*

Vacation Bible School

Pohick's Vacation Bible School will be held July 12 through July 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The theme is "Discovery on Adventure Island." The students will explore how God's great light shines in the world and shows them how they can reflect that light into their own lives. Please mark the calendar and plan to attend! Praying that there will be an actual in-person program at the Church this summer. It will depend on the number of COVID cases at the time. If the in-person VBS is scheduled, the size will be limited. The CDC guidelines for schools and preschools will be followed. Plan B will be to plan for a virtual VBS program similar to last summer.



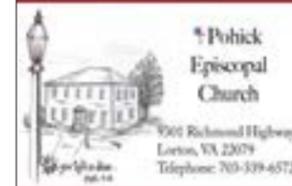
VBS classes will be held for three-year-olds through fifth grade students. The 6th through 12th grade students are encouraged to volunteer as assistants.

There is a need for many volunteers! There are openings for lead teachers, art director, recreation director as well as assistants in all of these areas. If anyone is interested in knowing more about the program, please contact Frances Sessums at 703-472-5180 or by email at francesessums1@gmail.com.

Send News!

Articles for the June *Pohick Post* are due no later than May 15. Forward input by email to Lori Buckius, raebuck@aol.com.

POHICK POST



The *Pohick Post* Team is looking for people with experience in graphic design and using Adobe InDesign. Email Carmel, carmel.hodge@pohick.org, or Lori, raebuck@aol.com, for more information!

**MUSIC NOTES**Linda Wilberger Egan, *Minister of Music*

It has been a privilege to serve Pohick as Minister of Music these last 15+ years. In looking back over that time, so many things flood into my mind:

- 5 three year cycles of the lectionary and all the services associated with them. All those anthems and hymns and hand

bell pieces and Pickers' arrangements; all those preludes and postludes; all the preparation and all the presentation. We have presented a large variety of music from different centuries and in different musical styles, using different musical forces. There were 17 different pieces of music each Sunday across the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services.

- 14 Sounds of Pohick concerts 2006-2019. 14 Lessons and Carols services on the fourth Sunday of Advent 2006 - 2019. Special music on Youth Sundays. Once a year services for the Brotherhood's celebration of George Washington's birthday and the Docents' Christmas dinner. Music theory and sightreading courses or Hymns in History in the summer. 13 organ recitals for the Country Fair, 2007 - 2019. Major organ recitals to celebrate my 50th anniversary as a church musician and the organ's 50th anniversary.

- It is a privilege to play such a beautifully constructed and reliably serviced instrument. The organ project, begun in August 2017, was a fitting way for all of us to say, "Happy 50th Birthday," to it in 2018, and to sustain the organ so that it may last many more years.

David M. Storey, who has cared for this instrument for many years, was the builder who revoiced and regulated the trumpet, provided a new bench and a new blower, repainted the Great and Positive cases, regulated and repainted the Subbass, designed and built a music rack lamp, and regulated the stop action and the Great key action. Through the efforts of a fund committee chaired by Mo Faber, the gifts of 48 individuals and three Pohick organizations made it all possible.

- Music Notes articles in the *Pohick Post*, in addition to announcements of upcoming events, have focused on such things as the positive neurological ef-

fects of music study for participants; the circumstances of the composition of hymns and the content they contain, the function of the prelude in worship and the need for prayer, reflection and silence as we begin the Eucharist; and suggestions for keeping our voices working and keeping up our spirits during this terrible pandemic. They were always written with a focus on meaning in music, on what musical content is and how it is communicated in worship, so that we become more open to hearing God through music, in order to know more of God and understand God's care for all of us.

- In the last year, all of us staff members and volunteers were learning new skills, constantly changing, upgrading, updating, troubleshooting, and making the huge effort to communicate to all of you and to unknown others via live streaming and Zoom, so that you could continue to worship and participate during this pandemic. Many singers stepped forward to become able hymn soloists, one per service. Zoom Coffee 'n Compline began on Wednesdays, and provided much needed spiritual succor. Who could have imagined leading hymn singing and choir rehearsals from my music room at home without being able to hear any singers? My husband, John, assisted with the Zooms - couldn't have done it without him. Who could have imagined bell rehearsals with one ringer per pew box? Who knew we'd become adept at temperature taking and inquiring about people's health on a near daily basis? What a year. By God's grace we have come through, and will continue to come through.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the musicians of Pohick, including yourselves, because all of you who sing as a congregation in worship are the largest group of musicians at Pohick. You are really a hymn and service music and psalm singing parish. It has been a pleasure to hear you, lead you, and sing with you.

The pros who lead musical groups: Barb Lynn, who directs the St. Francis Choir; and John Sessums who leads and arranges music for the Pohick Pickers, ably assisted by Carolyn Cockroft and Chris Brown.

The members of the Choir of Pohick, the Bell Choir, the Pohick Pickers, the Early Church Music Ensemble, the St. Cecelia St. Alban Choir, and the St. Francis Choir. No matter the age, from age 4 on

*Continued on page 7***Music Notes: continued from page 6**

throughout life; or skill level, from never-participated-before to lifelong participant, from pre-kindergarteners to music degree holders; all volunteer their time and talent and hard work. Their families support their participation. All have been dedicated to the holy work of making music for the Eucharist through weekly rehearsals and services.

Finally, all those who further volunteered to serve: the music committee, Don Brownlee, Jackie Wells, Pam Hogg, and Carolyn Cockroft; the music librarians, Nancy Sage (Choir of Pohick), Jane Thurston (Bell Choir), Pam Hogg (St. Cecelia St. Alban Choir); the choir parents, Pam Hogg and Jeff Schavland; Barb Lynn, in charge of vestments for all the choirs; all those who served for Sounds of Pohick and the other concerts; and many others who pitched in to make it all work.

All have made and will continue to make music to the glory of God and for the participation, inspiration, encouragement, and strengthening of the lives of parishioners and now of the wider world as well.

All have been open to the active presence of God during music making. William Cowper describes what can happen for the musician making music in hymn 667, which is apt for all of us living in this current pandemic time:

*Sometimes a light surprises the Christian
while he sings;
it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings;
when comforts are declining, he grants the soul again
a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.*

*Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted
fruit should bear,
though all the fields should wither, nor flocks
nor herds be there;
yet God the same abiding, his praise shall
tune my voice;
for, while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.*

I know you will welcome the new Minister of Music, David Leahey, and his family to Pohick, and will look forward to the talents, creativity and care he brings to lead the worship of God.

Thank you for these years with you!

**Shrine Mont Lite
Family Weekend • June 25-27**

This summer, Pohick will have a "Shrine Mont Lite" weekend this year on June 25 - 27. Pre-pandemic, Pohick attended a formal retreat. Because of COVID-19, indoor gatherings are limited, indoor group dining prohibited, and housing socially distanced. So this year, Pohick will not register as a group; families and individuals will register on their own for housing.

Shrine Mont is the diocesan conference and retreat center located in Orkney Springs, a community in western Shenandoah County, Virginia about 112 miles from Pohick Church.

Shrine Mont is holding limited spaces for Pohick families to rent rooms on their own. Reservations may be made on the Shrine Mont site <https://shrinemont.com/request-a-reservation>. The directions for use are straight forward. However, if preferred, call 540-856-2141 and ask for Donna or Janet for assistance. Contact the Parish Coordinator, Neil Sunderland, at nomadicmapper@aol.com or 703-346-5816 for more information. Please notify Neil once registered for the weekend.

Following the current Shrine Mont guidelines, individuals and families will eat on their own, cafeteria-style and take-out. Pohick is planning a few group activities: an outdoor Saturday evening compline including a bonfire, and a Eucharist Sunday at the Shrine, as well as some kind of activity at the covered pavilion. Distanced fellowship, outdoor enjoyment, and spiritual refreshment are the only agenda. Most of the time is "on your own." There will be no organized youth or children's programming by the staff because the family units are encouraged to remain together.

Below are links to some very delightful and interesting videos on Shrine Mont for your viewing:

Aerial view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p-48ijh7gI>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MN3wc3uwbE

Shouting Prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2O1SSuXfVEE>

Will the Circle be Unbroken:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ESN3WdeqTE>

Shout it from the Mountain:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9od54SRBy0>



UPDATE ON ISSUES IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Don Brownlee, *Member of Policy and Planning Commission*

A Special Convention of the Diocese of Virginia overwhelmingly adopted a revamped diocesan budget for 2021. The principal change from a budget rejected in November was to restore funding for campus ministries. The budget is balanced, anticipating \$4.8 million in both revenue and expenses.

The Special Convention April 24th was conducted by Zoom meeting, as was the regular Convention last November.



The revised budget presented to the delegates reflected \$362,000 in additional pledges from parishes since November. It used the additional income to restore some of funding cuts from the November proposal, but not enough for the majority of the convention delegates. An amendment to add an additional \$20,000 for campus ministries was approved. To keep the budget balanced, the increased funding was offset by cuts in funding for the committees on Aging and Stewardship of Creation.

In addition to the extra funding for campus ministries, the now-approved budget makes additional funding available to support parish ministries in Creation Care and Evangelism, emerging Post-COVID needs, mission congregations, and a newly created position of Minister for Racial Justice and Healing. A proposal at the convention to take \$1 million from our unencumbered assets – essentially, money in the bank with no restrictions on its use – and designate it for “Reparations

and the Undoing of White Supremacy” was narrowly defeated.

Delegates likewise voted down a proposal to freeze cost of living adjustments for diocesan staff. It was intended as a sign of solidarity with those who have lost wages or jobs due to the pandemic.

The Executive Committee has been funding ongoing diocesan operations on a month-to-month basis since the Convention voted against the original budget proposal.

Copies of the budget and other documents related to the Special Convention are [available on the diocesan website](#).

Bp. Susan told delegates planning is underway for the regular Diocesan Convention to take place in person at the Crystal City Marriot November 11-13. It will be held by Zoom if pandemic conditions to not allow an in-person meeting.



As was reported in March, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review three church property cases, including two from the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. The decision ended a dozen years of litigation that began when the diocese voted to leave The Episcopal Church due to theological disagreements over the role of gays and lesbians in the life of the church, but retain control of church and diocesan property and assets. The diocese was also the last in The Episcopal Church which did not ordain women to the priesthood.

Most congregations that wished to remain part of The Episcopal Church found new places to worship after the split, but six remained in their buildings while the litigation played out. Those six had until mid-April to move out of their churches into temporary worship spaces. Bp. Scott Mayer

Continued on page 9

Update on Issues in the Anglican Communion,

continued from page 8

[told his diocese](#) to “be gentle” with each other they work to understand and deal with their new reality.

“As the people of this diocese know, it’s when things, when people, are broken that the Holy Spirit tends to show up, slipping in through the cracks.

“One clue that that’s happening, is when we notice that the questions are changing.

“When we don’t ask “what do we have,” but rather “what do we have to offer?”

“Episcopalians in North Central Texas may not be rich in buildings, but we are rich in talents generously offered for the larger good. We are rich in generous faith-filled lives.”

As the departing diocese retained ownership of the name “Diocese of Ft. Worth,” the remaining diocese has restyled itself as “The Episcopal Church in North Texas.”



The Diocese of Ft. Worth was formed in 1983 from the Diocese of Dallas. It is now reaching back to Dallas, and [proposing to establish](#) a “Missionary District” of Dallas to provide a diocesan home and episcopal oversight to theologically conservative Anglicans there.

The Ft. Worth decision leaves only one significant property case unresolved. South Carolina courts have ruled that property and other assets there belong to the group that wishes to remain with The Episcopal Church. As with the Ft. Worth case, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene. But the breakaway group continues to fight in state court, and has yet to relinquish the property.

In another follow-up to an ongoing story, former Bp. William Love, who had been bishop of Albany, N.Y., has resigned his orders in The Episcopal Church. Bp. Love had refused to comply

with a 2018 directive from the General Convention that everyone must have access to marriage or blessing regardless of their sexual orientation. Bishops opposed on theological grounds must allow clergy in their dioceses to perform same-sex marriages if they choose nonetheless. Other theologically conservative bishops had found a way to comply that was consistent with their theological beliefs. In November, a church disciplinary panel unanimously found that Bp. Love, had violated his ordination vows to “conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church” by refusing to do so.



Faced with the likelihood he would be removed from office, Bp. Love announced he would retire. His directive prohibiting his clergy from officiating at same-sex weddings ended with the end of his episcopacy in February.

Late in March, Bp. Love [announced he was resigning his orders](#), and will join the Anglican Church in North America. “As a cradle Episcopalian (with nearly 30 years of ordained ministry as a deacon, priest and bishop), that was not an easy decision, but given all that has transpired these past couple of years and the constraints placed upon me as a theologically conservative and orthodox bishop within [The Episcopal Church], I believe it is the right decision,” he said in an email to his diocese. Presiding Bishop Michael granted his request to be released, and removed from ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church.

A group of theologically-conservative Episcopal bishops called Communion Partners [called Bp. Love’s departure](#) “tragic,” adding:

“We believe that we are called to live our lives in Christ together with our fellow Episcopalians, within the Anglican Communion, as we make

Continued on page 10

Update on Issues in the Anglican Communion,
continued from page 9

our witness to the Church’s traditional teaching on marriage. We are encouraged to read the statement of the Rev’d Scott Garno, president of the Standing Committee in Albany, that with respect to the upcoming election of a new bishop in Albany, ‘we believe there is a way forward for Albany as an orthodox diocese within the Episcopal Church.’ We share this belief, in keeping with the Presiding Bishop’s recent comments that ours is a church with ‘room’ for us all.

“This latest development is a stark reminder that more work needs to be done to secure ‘the indispensable place that the minority who hold to this Church’s historic teaching on marriage have in our common life, whose witness the Church needs.’ (from TEC General Convention Resolution 2018-A227) We seek a ‘lasting path forward for mutual flourishing’ for both parties, as called for by the General Convention.”

Bp. Love’s predecessor, Bp. Daniel Herzog, also [announced his intention to leave](#) The Episcopal Church – for a second time. He had renounced his ordained ministry once before, but had a change of heart, and was restored to ministry by then-Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in 2010.

The Episcopal Church has released the results of a three-year [“Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal](#)



[Leadership.](#)” It identified nine “patterns” of systemic racism within the church, and concluded that “even though we have come far in addressing racism within the church, we still have a long way to go.”

The audit identified what it called nine “dominant patterns of systemic racism” within the Church, including approaching anti-racism efforts in a transactional rather than transformational way; measuring clergy of color by “how much money they bring in, not if their ministries are thriving;” pigeonholing people of color into ministries that revolve around diversity, anti-racism or global mission; and addressing the “deep longing and commitment to telling the whole historical truth of how The Episcopal Church financially benefited from, participated in, and perpetuated white supremacy and racist practices and beliefs, and how it continues to benefit from, participate in, and perpetuate racism to this day.” It recommended a series of measures, including prioritizing racial justice and healing within, between and for People of Color; providing tools for racial audits at the diocesan and parish level, and to “institute reparations on the churchwide level for communities directly affected by the exploitation of or profiting from the labor and resources of Black and Indigenous people.”

The audit was conducted by the Massachusetts-based Mission Institute. The survey was sent to nearly 3,000 clergy and lay leaders, primarily in the House of Bishops, House of Deputies, Executive Council, churchwide staff and diocesan leadership from across the Church.

It is important to remember that despite all these difficulties, and despite the enormous disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Church – globally, nationally, and locally – goes on. Pohick gave twice the number of Thanksgiving food baskets to LCAC as done last year. As Bp. Susan said in her pastoral address to the 226th Diocesan Convention in November, “The truth is, there is no going back to Church... because we never left the Church in the first place. Worship in person in our buildings has been suspended, but worship has not stopped. Church buildings are closed, but the Church is not closed. Ministry across the diocese continues. Building community in Jesus’ name continues.”

Summary of the Special Convention to Adopt the Budget

Rev. Lynn and Pohick’s two delegates, Don Brownlee and Glenn Larkin, attended the virtual Re-Convening of Convention on Saturday, April 24. The Diocesan Convention debated and passed the Diocesan Budget. That process is described below.

Lay and clerical delegates of the Diocese of Virginia met online today at the Special Convention to Adopt the Budget. This meeting was called by Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority Susan Goff as a follow-up to the 226th Convention last November during which the delegates declined to approve the budget and thereby referred the budget back to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board met monthly to revise the budget based on an updated forecast for pledge income from parishes. The Board also considered input from the November Convention and a subsequent survey of delegates.

The Executive Board presented to the Special Convention a revised draft budget balanced at \$4,867,123. The Board approached this revision with focus on the Diocese’s stated mission priorities: healing across differences, honoring and caring for God’s creation, and sharing the faith of Jesus with youth and others.

The revised draft budget featured restored funding in a few areas, based on parish pledges that came in higher than forecasted. It included the following additional allocations:

- \$35,000 more for engaging the newly created position of Minister for Racial Justice and Healing;
- \$50,000 in funding for parishes and ministries in the areas of Creation Care and Evangelism;
- \$22,000 more for Campus Ministries;
- \$60,000 for Post-COVID Ministry to allow the Diocese to address emerging needs as we begin to move out of the pandemic;
- \$140,000 more for the Committee on Congregational Missions to allocate to mission congregations of the Diocese; and
- \$53,223 more in Staff Compensation to allow the Bishop flexibility in staffing and compensation decisions, including filling vacant positions.

Prior to presentation of this new budget, the Convention considered several amendments presented by delegates.

Budget Resolution 1 proposed to reallocate Cost of Living Allowances for diocesan staff to post COVID ministries. Budget Resolution 1 was defeated.

Budget Resolution 2 proposed that, as the economy in Virginia continues to improve, the proposed budget be amended to increase Anticipated Pledge Income

by \$125,000, increase Grants for Campus Ministry by \$20,000, increase Direct Support of Congregations’ Staff Cost by \$95,000, and increase Post COVID Ministry by \$10,000. Budget Resolution 2 was defeated.

The following two resolutions were submitted on the floor of Convention:

Budget Resolution 3 proposed to reallocate \$20,000 from the Committee on Aging and from Stewardship of Creation to Episcopal College Campus Ministry. Budget Resolution 3 was adopted.

Budget Resolution 4 proposed to allocate \$1,000,000 from diocesan investment assets to the income category and add a new line item for “Reparations & Undoing White Supremacy.” Budget Resolution 4 was defeated.

“Budget Resolution 4 is bold in scope and strong in intent,” said Bishop Goff. “In coming months, I look forward to working with groups in our Diocese to identify sources of funding and achieve greater clarity about how the funding would be used. God bless us as we explore and act together.”

After voting on the budget amendments, the Convention voted to adopt the budget as amended at \$4,867,123.

“I am grateful for and deeply impressed with the hard work done by so many,” added Bishop Goff, “especially the members of the Executive Board and our Diocesan Treasurer Ted Smith. I am grateful as well for the participation and commitment of the nearly 400 delegates who attended the Special Convention. God has led us through many challenges in recent months and presented us with new opportunities. We are learning and growing together in God’s grace.”

The 227th Convention of the Diocese of Virginia will meet November 11-13, 2021.



Natalie Duncan hosts gathering for Bible study group led by Amy Bontrager.

Pohick Church

9301 Richmond Highway
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In Christ, Embracing our Visionary Past, Vibrant and Welcoming in the Present, Transforming for the Future*



VESTRY GRAM

Date: _____ Subject: _____

To: The Vestry

From: _____

Pohick Church Staff

Rector: The Reverend
Dr. Lynn P. Ronaldi
Assistant to the Rector: The Reverend Deacon
Celal Kamran
Seminarian: Adam Lees
Minister of Music: Linda Egan
Director of Christian Ed: Frances Sessums
Youth Minister: Rusty Booth
Finance Admin: Mike Morgan
Sexton: John Sessums
Administrative Assistant: Carmel Hodge

Pohick Church Vestry

Sr. Warden: Stew Remaly
Jr. Warden: Tony Harriman
Treasurer: John Pasour
Register: Dru Hodges
Members: Marc Abrams, Dave Billingsley, Andrew Choi, Jen Crump-Strawderman, Mike Elston, Courtney Greathouse, Patty Mitchell, Connie Myers, Edwardene Pitcock

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