



O Mountains & Hills, Bless the Lord

**Search for the
7th Bishop**



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
SOUTHWESTERN
VIRGINIA**

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Beloved Sibling in Christ,

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2)*

As I sit down to put words to the diocese that I and so many others love, these words of the psalmist sing in my heart. The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is a vast landscape dominated by the mountains, hills, rivers, and valleys that are our backdrop. From the hollers of Appalachia to the city streets of Lynchburg and Roanoke, from rural farmland to quaint downtowns, from the Monacan Nation’s sacred land of Bear Mountain to the whitewater of the New River, we are a people rooted and grounded by the natural beauty of this little corner of God’s creation. If you listen closely enough you may just hear the mountains speak.

In Appalachia you’ll find storytellers, and our story is important to us. Our story reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. The words of this profile reflect the story of where we’ve been and where we sense the Holy Spirit calling us to go. We are a people who value knowing and being known. Relationship is a hallmark of both the culture of the region and our diocese, and here you will find southern hospitality in abundance. We are a people who value mission and outreach. Diocesan ministries like Grace House on the Mountain, parish-based ministries, and community partnerships ground us in Jesus’ command to love and serve our neighbor. We are a people who value the building up of God’s Kingdom in our midst through reconciliation and justice initiatives. With our baptismal covenant as our guiding principles we continue discerning how best to advocate for the marginalized and oppressed. We are far from perfect, but the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is a good place with good people. We seek a leader who will help us wonder and reach toward God’s dream for us, will love us, and will celebrate our successes and help us grow as disciples. Listen with us as the mountains speak.

As you listen to the stirrings of your own heart, are these mountains speaking to you? We invite you to be in conversation and prayer with us. Our story is still unfolding and the Holy Spirit is on the move. Come and see, and sit a spell. We’d love to hear your story.

Blessings,

The Rev. Sarah Lusk

Chair, Bishop Search Committee



A Collect for the Election of Our Bishop

Creator God, whose Church lives beyond the walls of buildings and the boundaries of cities, we ask that you guide our work as the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia moves together through a transition of leadership. We pray for patience in dialogue and wisdom in discernment, that the richness of our diverse voices, from farmland to small town, mountain to downtown, will all be valued and heard. We pray for the person who will be elected as our next Bishop, for all those who are in discernment, and for the people of this diocese, so that the work of spreading God’s love in southwestern Virginia and beyond will grow and flourish in the years to come. In the name of your incarnate son we pray. Amen.



The Mountains

WHERE OUR STORY LIVES



Our story is situated against a landscape of natural beauty and amidst a rich cultural heritage. We make up the western part of the Commonwealth of Virginia, extending from Waynesboro in the north to Bristol in the south. We are truly blessed to live in one of the prettiest corners of God's creation. The Appalachian mountains are the spine of our diocese and almost three-quarters of the counties in our diocese are part of the Appalachian region. The foothills of the Piedmont make up our eastern bounds, with captivating views of Sharp Top Mountain in

Bedford County visible from just about everywhere. Even Thomas Jefferson waxed poetic about the beauty of the Blue Ridge while in residence at Poplar Forest. We boast wide rivers including Virginia's longest, the James, and Virginia's oldest, the New River. We celebrate all four seasons with cool winters, mild springs, warm summers, and fabulous falls.



We acknowledge our diocese is on the ancestral lands of the Monacan Nation, the indigenous peoples of Virginia. St. Paul's Episcopal Mission sits at the base of the sacred Bear Mountain in Amherst County. Just behind the church building is the Monacan Indian Nation Museum, located in a log cabin that served as a schoolhouse until the late 1960s. Bear Mountain is the site of the Monacan Nation's annual Powwow, of which our diocese is a major sponsor. The close relationship we share with our Monacan siblings enriches our common life.



There is no shortage of outdoor activities to enjoy in the area. Hiking, biking, walking, running, kayaking, golfing, tennis, and pickleball all have many enthusiastic participants. The venues are spectacular with the mountains, valley, and rivers completing a scenic backdrop to these and more activities.

The soul of Southwestern Virginia is found in its vibrant cultural institutions, a captivating blend of Appalachian traditions and forward-looking innovation. This is a land where the roots of American music run deep. Bristol, officially designated as the “Birthplace of Country Music,” celebrates this legacy at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. The Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail, meanders through the region, alive with the sounds of bluegrass, old-time, and gospel music emanating from community centers, local theaters, and front porches. Vibrant arts organizations produce shows that are entertainment gems in many communities. At the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, the famous Barter Theater in Abingdon, and the historic Academy Center of the Arts and Opera on the James in Lynchburg, there are no shortage of shows to take in.

Transportation centers around Interstates 81 and 64. The diocese is in the center of the East Coast and is within one day’s road travel from one-third of the United States population. There are commercial airports in Roanoke and Lynchburg, with the airports of Charlottesville and TriCities serving the north and south of the diocese. Amtrak provides service in the region with passenger trains to Washington, D.C., and the northeast, as well as Chicago and the west. [Check out these videos of Southwest Virginia.](#)

We have over twenty colleges and universities in our diocese, some with campus ministries.

Southwestern Virginia’s rugged topography and relative isolation have shaped a distinctive Appalachian culture centered on music, storytelling, craft, kinship, and faith. The people of the region are deeply tied to the land, with a profound sense of place that persists even amid economic and demographic challenges.

For those seeking a place of extraordinary beauty, rich cultural experiences, and a welcoming community of faith, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia offers a compelling invitation. This is a place to put down roots, where our story is both ancient and ever-new.



A DioSWVA LEXICON

All Y'all	You-uns and us-uns ... all means all
Appalachian	"app-uh-latch-in" (not "app-uh-lay-shin")
Botetourt	"bot eh tot" (not "bot eh tort")
Britches	Pants
Buena Vista	"byoo na vista" (forget that it's a Spanish word)
Doohickey	Gadget
Dope	Soda ... most particularly a Pepsi
Fetch	Retrieve ("fetch yourself a dope from the icebox and sit a spell")
Hokies	It's pronounced the way it is spelled, but we don't really know what it is
Juice	Electricity
Lollygag	A waste of time
Persnickety	Picky
Poke	Brown paper bag ... if you buy a pig in a poke ... well, it came home in a paper bag
Reckon	Guess
Roanoke	"row noke" (drop the "a")
South West Virginia	Somewhere else ... we are Southwestern Virginia ... be careful
Spell	A unit of time ("come sit a spell")
Staunton	"stantin" (not "stawn tin")
Y'all	"you" both singular, and plural



A Brief History of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Our story reaches back to 1607, when Anglican roots in Virginia took hold with the arrival of English settlers who established the Church of England at Jamestown. As the colony expanded westward, so did the Church's presence, reaching the Blue Ridge foothills and Shenandoah Valley by 1738 through the ministry of The Rev. Anthony Gavin.

The American Revolution disrupted this establishment. Ties to the British crown led to the disestablishment of the Church of England in Virginia through Thomas Jefferson's 1786 statute of religious freedom. In its place rose the Episcopal Church, reflecting the new republic's democratic spirit.

The 19th century saw renewed growth across Virginia, particularly under evangelical bishops like Richard Channing Moore and William Meade, who advanced mission work westward. Railroads and post-Civil War industrialization enabled outreach in Appalachian communities, where deaconesses and clergy brought education, health care, and worship.

As Virginia grew, the General Convention subdivided diocesan boundaries. In 1919, recognizing the distinctive geography and needs of the region, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia was created from the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Rev. Robert Carter Jett became its first bishop, with the see city established in Roanoke. The legacy of being a missionary diocese is part of the fabric of who we are 106 years later. This is a place of faith spreading through the mountains which are our mission field, and where our story continues to be written.



The Rt. Rev. Robert Carter Jett becomes the first bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia in 1919.

1

Evans House, home of the diocesan offices, was built in 1948. Until then, the offices were housed at St. John's Church, Roanoke.

2

This quilt, depicting Bishop Heath Light of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia shaking hands with former Monacan chief Kenneth Branham, is the work of Pat McCauley, wife of Monacan tribal member Tommy McCauley. It was made to commemorate the return of seven-and-a-half acres of Monacan land to the tribe in 1995.

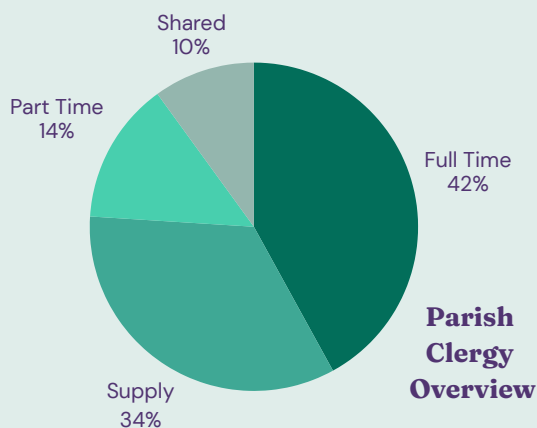
3



The Valleys

COLLECTING THE STORIES OF WHO WE ARE TODAY

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is a relatively stable diocese with good financial health. Over 6,900 souls are communicants in good standing. We have a collegial group of 64 clergy, active and retired, who have genuine affection for one another. There are no Title IV proceedings in process.



The diocese is made up of 50 churches, two of which are ecumenical parishes. We have an ASA of 2,835 (per 2024 parochial report). Our Diocese is blessed by the generosity of those who have gone before us, as well as the faithful stewardship of our parishes. Voluntary Proportional Giving from our parishes to the diocesan budget is strong. Our endowment draw as well as minimum distributions from external trusts provide for continuity of our Diocesan programs and missions.

Each year our Convention approves a balanced budget which strives to balance prudent financial management with the work that God is calling us to do in Southwestern Virginia. The Trustees of the Funds of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia was established to receive, manage and dispose of monies, funds and real estate not only of the diocese but also for those parishes that have entrusted funds to their care. The pooled investment portfolio has grown to over \$23 million. Approximately 49% of these assets are owned by the Diocese, while the remaining 51% are held on behalf of participating parishes.



Our budget, investments, and endowments are strong. This is a place with good financial health that allows us to advance our missions and ministries.

DioSWVA by the numbers

THE CONVOCATIONS OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

ABINGDON CONVOCATION

1. St. Thomas', Abingdon
2. Christ, Big Stone Gap
3. Emmanuel, Bristol
4. Christ, Marion
5. All Saints, Norton
6. Christ, Pocahontas
7. St. Mark's, St. Paul
8. St. Paul's, Saltville
9. Stras Memorial, Tazewell

ROANOKE CONVOCATION

1. Trinity, Buchanan
2. St. Peter's, Callaway
3. St. Mark's, Fincastle
4. Christ, Martinsville
5. Trinity Ecumenical, Moneta
6. Christ, Roanoke
7. St. Elizabeth's, Roanoke
8. St. James', Roanoke
9. St. John's, Roanoke
10. Trinity, Rocky Mount
11. St. Paul's, Salem

NEW RIVER CONVOCATION

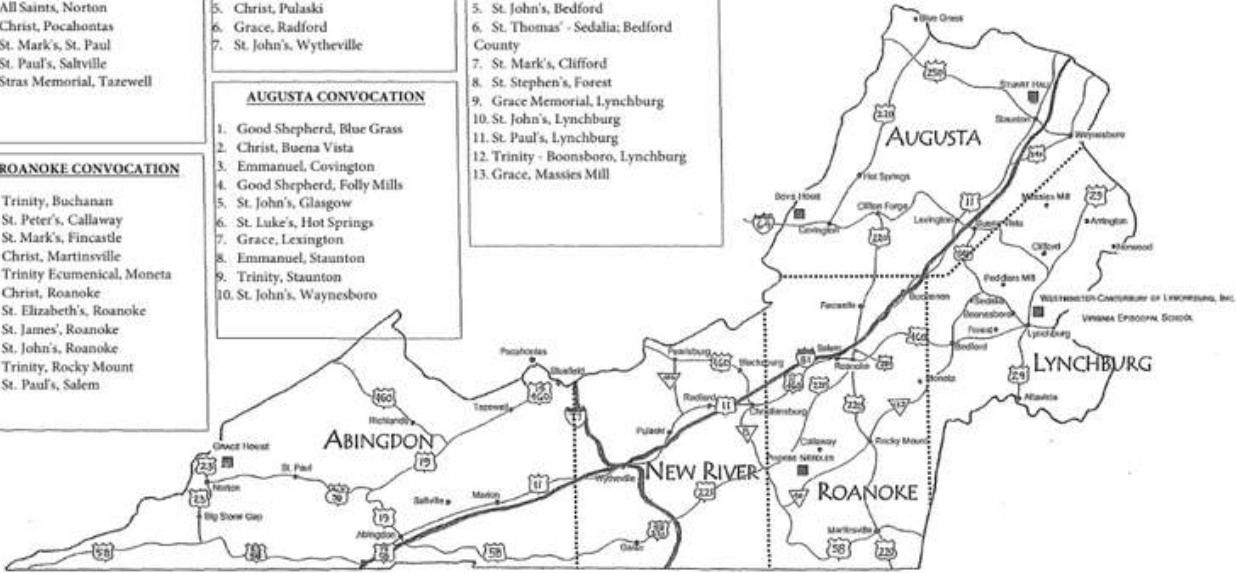
1. Christ, Blacksburg
2. St. Thomas', Christiansburg
3. Good Shepherd, Galax
4. Christ, Pearisburg
5. Christ, Pulaski
6. Grace, Radford
7. St. John's, Wytheville

AUGUSTA CONVOCATION

1. Good Shepherd, Blue Grass
2. Christ, Buena Vista
3. Emmanuel, Covington
4. Good Shepherd, Folly Mills
5. St. John's, Glasgow
6. St. Luke's, Hot Springs
7. Grace, Lexington
8. Emmanuel, Staunton
9. Trinity, Staunton
10. St. John's, Waynesboro

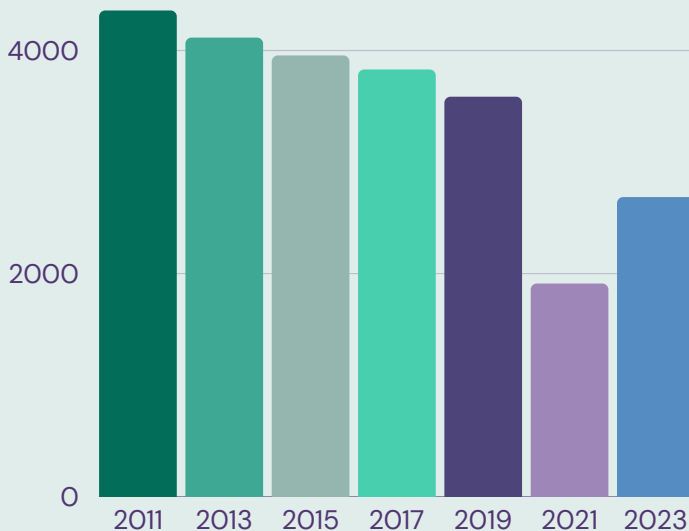
LYNCHBURG CONVOCATION

1. St. Peter's, Altavista
2. Ascension, Amherst
3. St. Paul's - Bear Mountain, Amherst
4. Trinity, Arrington
5. St. John's, Bedford
6. St. Thomas' - Sedalia, Bedford County
7. St. Mark's, Clifford
8. St. Stephen's, Forest
9. Grace Memorial, Lynchburg
10. St. John's, Lynchburg
11. St. Paul's, Lynchburg
12. Trinity - Boonsboro, Lynchburg
13. Grace, Massies Mill



Almost 5 hours & 30 minutes from tip to tip!

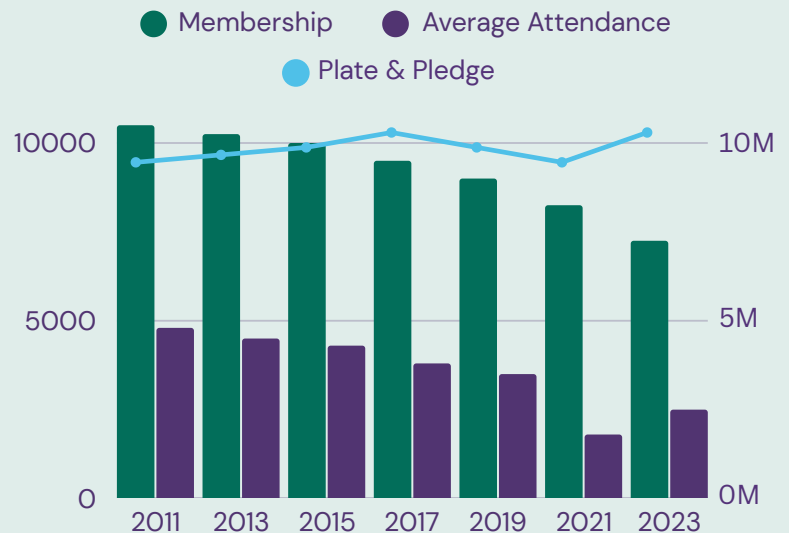
Average Attendance



Our attendance did drop during Covid but has now started to recover.

Our membership DID drop and has NOT yet recovered - (streaming/uncommitted attendees may be part of the puzzle).

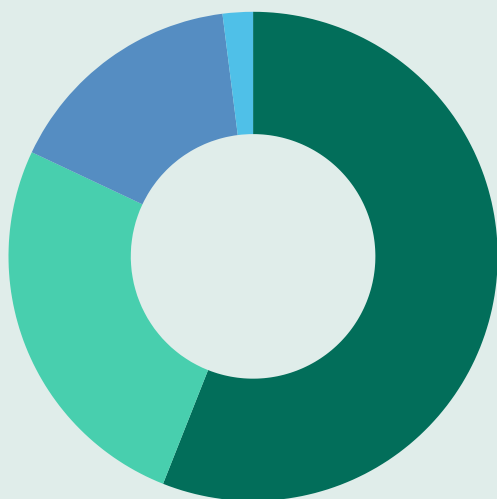
Participation & Giving Trends



Our plate and pledge numbers did NOT drop significantly during COVID - we aggressively added tech/streaming capabilities to many of our smaller parishes.

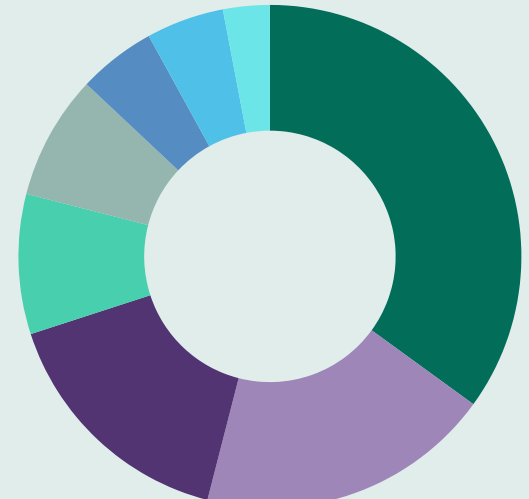
	2024 Budget	2024 Projected	2025 Asking	2025 Approved	Notes
Total Current Year VPG Pledges	\$996,465	\$989,507	\$1,070,806	\$1,021,726	5% below asking
Total Other Operating Income	\$115,700	\$105,489	\$98,800	\$98,800	Projecting further decline
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,112,165	\$1,094,996	\$1,169,606	\$1,120,526	
Mission Initiatives	\$105,154	\$104,795	\$157,550	\$157,550	Almost 50% increase over 2024
Total Mission		\$104,795	\$157,550	\$157,550	
Staff	\$1,102,130	\$1,065,353	\$1,078,073	\$1,078,073	Reasonable variation from 2024
Canonical	\$172,150	\$183,529	\$136,600	\$136,600	
Organization	\$305,759	\$324,115	\$348,785	\$348,785	
Evans House	\$123,900	\$98,953	\$98,306	\$98,306	
Total Institutional		\$1,671,950	\$1,659,766	\$1,659,766	
Diocesan Institutions		\$31,099	\$24,000	\$24,000	Reduced 25% from 2024
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,807,844	\$1,841,316	\$1,841,316	
NET OPERATING LOSS		\$(712,848)	\$(671,710)	\$(720,790)	
OTHER INCOME		\$713,281	\$720,890	\$720,890	Gap is fundable from gifts, trusts, investments
NET		\$433	\$49,180	\$100	Balanced Budget

2025 Sources of Income



- Voluntary Proportional Giving – 56%
- Diocesan Investments – 26%
- External Trusts – 16%
- Other – 2%

2025 Operating Expenses



Current budgeted
operating expenses
for 2025:
\$1,852,716

- Ministry Support Staff – 35%
- Organizational – 19%
- Bishop: Salary & Expenses – 16%
- Diocesan Mission Institutions – 9%
- Mission Initiatives – 8%
- Canonical – 5%
- Evans House – 5%
- Reserve Additions – 3%



Our Ministries & Institutions



The Phoebe Needles Center

<https://phoebeneedles.org/>

The Phoebe Needles Center is a camp and conference center in the Diocese. It serves people of all ages by offering facilities, summer camps, and a variety of educational, spiritual, and renewal programs designed to nurture people in their spiritual formation.

Boys Home of Virginia

<https://boyshomeofva.org/>

Boys Home of Virginia is a private, residential school that provides a stable and supportive environment for young men who have faced significant adversities.



Grace House on the Mountain

<https://dioswva.org/ministries/grace-house/>

Grace House on the Mountain is an important ministry center of the diocese. Grace House seeks to be a place of social justice and advocacy for the welfare of the Appalachian people.

Stuart Hall School

<https://www.stuarthallschool.org/>

Stuart Hall School is a boarding and day school located in Staunton, Virginia.



Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg

<https://www.wclynchburg.org/>

Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg is a not-for-profit Life Plan Community that enriches, empowers and engages the lives of residents, their families and team members.



Virginia Episcopal School

<https://www.ves.org/>

Virginia Episcopal School is a grades 9-12 co-educational private school in Lynchburg, VA.



Haiti Collaborative & Mountains to Mountains

<https://www.vahat.org>

The Virginia Haiti Collaborative and Mountains to Mountains are coalitions of churches and individuals partnering with the various Episcopal communities in Haiti to support those ministries and improve education.

Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King, a ministry of prayer and service to the church, welcomes all women and girls who are communicants of The Episcopal Church and churches in communion with it.



Youth Ministries

<https://dioswva.org/initiatives/lifelong-formation/youth-ministry/>

Our diocese is blessed to have a strong diocesan youth program providing formation, weekend retreats and summer mission trips. The Youth Ministry Team (YMT) members work together to design and lead youth events in the diocese.

Young Adult & Campus Ministries

Campus Ministries are supported by local parishes at 5 Universities & Colleges in the diocese. We also have an Intentional Young Adult Community – the Norwich Community.



Ecumenical Parishes

The Diocese has 2 ecumenical parishes: Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta that shares Lutheran, Presbyterian and Episcopal ministries. Church of the Good Shepherd, Galax shares Lutheran and Episcopal ministries.

Our story is found in who we are.

We are rooted in community—woven together by prayer, relationship, creativity, and a shared mission. From the mountains of Appalachia to our bustling towns and quiet countryside, we are a people seeking to live out the love of God in the world around us. We are congregations from rural hollows, suburban neighborhoods, and city streets. Though our contexts vary, we are united in our desire for wisdom and inspiration as we go forth to share God's love. In sanctuaries large and small, in fellowship halls and food pantries, in front porches and Pride parades, we seek to become the Beloved Community God envisions.



We are mission-minded. Through Sacred Ground Circles, justice ministries, and ecumenical partnerships, we strive to bridge divides, confront racism, and walk alongside the marginalized. We long to reach the lost, the impoverished, the forgotten—and in so doing, discover ourselves more deeply loved. **We are people of prayer.** Communities of intercession, like our Daughters of the King chapters, lift the needs of the diocese and the wider world in faithful devotion. This spirit of prayer grounds us, shapes us, and sends us. **We are deeply relational.** We believe that ministry is about connection—across pews, across traditions, across generations. We walk together with our ecumenical partners and trust the Spirit's leading to guide us toward shared witness and transformative action.



We are open-hearted believers. Our hearts are shaped by Scripture, by liturgy, and by the call to proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. We hunger for spiritual formation and delight in opportunities to grow in faith and love.

We are small but mighty. Our diocese is home to many smaller and rural congregations, some of which are lay-led. In 2023, 15 of our 50 parishes had an average Sunday attendance of 20 or fewer (2024 stats not yet available). Innovative ministry models, like our Curacy program, have helped raise up and support new clergy who bring pastoral and sacramental leadership to these communities.

Our story is found in who we are.



We are bold in creativity. Nowhere is this clearer than in the Appalachian Alliance of Episcopal Parishes—a collaborative formed in 2020 among four congregations in the Coalfields region: All Saints in Norton, St. Mark's in St. Paul, Stras Memorial in Tazewell, and Christ Church in Marion. Born of necessity, this alliance became a sign of possibility, pooling resources to call a shared full-time priest, The Rev. John Church, alongside the support of The Rev. Emily Edmondson. Together, they embody a new model of collaborative ministry rooted in Appalachian resilience.

We are committed to our young people. Our diocesan youth ministry is vibrant and youth-led, with high school leaders of the Youth Ministry Team organizing retreats, mission trips, and gatherings throughout the year. Our commitment to young adults extends to four active campus ministries, supporting students during a critical time of formation and exploration.



We are a community that values being together. Our annual Diocesan Convention, held each January, is more than a business meeting—it's a family reunion. Worship binds us as one body. Workshops equip us as disciples. Fellowship fuels our spirits. And just down the road, our youth gather for Youth@Convention, a parallel retreat filled with worship, learning, and connection. Convention weekend becomes a joyful, multigenerational celebration of all that God is doing in our midst.



Our story is shaped by God's Spirit and guided by a shared hope for the Church we are becoming.

***We are the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia;
& our story is found in who we are, together.***





The Rivers

OUR STORY ROLLS ON

Our story continues to be written in the hopes and dreams of our people as we navigate this time of transition in our common life. When asked to name the priorities of our diocese in the years ahead, the people of DioSWVA made their voices heard. We collected responses from over 500 voices with six listening sessions, affinity groups, and a survey. This response shows the passion and dedication of our members. It is clear that the people of our diocese care deeply about God's mission in this place and are eager to join in a passionate proclamation of Christ's transforming love with our neighbor.

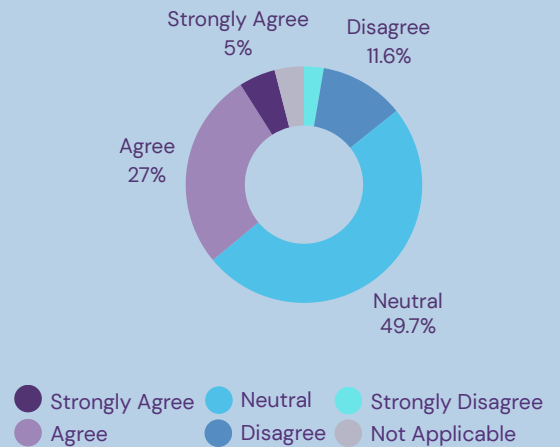
Through the robust number of voices offering their hopes for our diocese an interesting pattern emerged within the responses. There seems to be a sense of neutrality or detachment from the mission and ministry of the diocese as a whole. This speaks to the potential energy that seeks greater involvement in this place. We hear in this a call to relationship, to mission, and to a Spirit-filled hope for more direction.

In all of those voices, the top priority that emerges is a clear desire to expand the health and vitality of our parishes. The listening sessions and surveys provided suggestions to facilitate that vitality, including: empowering the laity, diocesan-wide programs such as Becoming Beloved Community, training for formation and evangelism, encouraging intergenerational ministry, and particularly, engaging and supporting youth of this diocese in their call to discipleship. We are deeply concerned about the trends of church decline in our country and wish to continue the good work of the past few years to expand the voice of the Episcopal Church in this region.

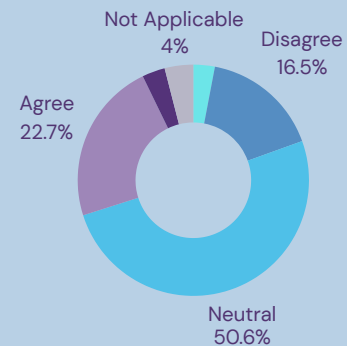
As we seek to follow where the Holy Spirit is leading a number of themes emerged from the listening sessions. We are a collection of fiercely independent parishes, but like the ecological systems in which we live, we are seeking harmony.

The people of our diocese deeply desire to be in relationship with one another, our next bishop, and the diocesan staff. We seek a pastoral presence in the next bishop who is called to walk alongside us and hear our unique story.

The diocese has been able to carry out strategic visioning and implementation processes successfully:



The current strategic or mission plan inspires the diocese:





“We want to know and be known by our next bishop” is a phrase uttered regularly in the process of listening to the people of DioSWVA. We seek a bishop who will be our chief pastor. Our next bishop will be charged with the care of the clergy of this diocese, lifting them up and nurturing a supportive, sacred, and Spirit-filled community. One of our strengths is having deacons who serve our diocese well, but their gifts have been under-utilized due to a lack of clarity around their deployment. Our next bishop will be tasked with clearly communicating with and supporting this vital order of ministry. We know this work as “pastor to the pastors” to be essential to the health and vitality of our congregations.

The laity of DioSWVA also desire to be in communion with our next bishop. Evans House is our diocesan center in Roanoke, but we desire an Ordinary with a robust presence out in the mission fields of our diocese. Our next bishop should be excited to visit all of our convocations regularly to allow the bonds of relationship to form between us. Our previous bishop was fond of saying that “we are a relational diocese;” this is absolutely true. We seek a community builder who can deepen those relationships and celebrate our diversity. We recognize the tension between this call to be the chief pastor and the demands of being the chief administrator of this place. Our next bishop must be equipped to manage this tension efficiently. In the same way, we charge our next bishop to engage our

community in a prophetic call to justice, while loving and nurturing those who hold differing views. Our next bishop must speak the truth in love, share the Gospel with passion, and possess the humility of a reconciling heart. We seek a prophetic voice.

Our desire for parish vitality, prophetic witness, and a pastoral presence will demand an Ordinary who is a visionary. Someone who will call us to discipleship, helping us move from a place of neutrality and detachment to a place of engagement and deeper community. We will need a bishop who is willing to be an agent of change and an innovator in our diocese and in our world. We are fortunate to have many gifts to join our next bishop in their work and truly desire a transformative community of faith that challenges us to live in the demands of the Gospel.

*We are a place of fertile ground ripe for sowing seeds of mission and discipleship,
and our story continues to unfold...*



Are the Mountains **CALLING YOU?**

As you hear the voices and stories from our profile, do you hear something speaking to you? **The mountains are calling!** If you feel any stirring of the Holy Spirit within you, we invite you to enter into discernment with us. Our process conforms with the Canons & Constitution of The Episcopal Church which means:

- No nominee shall be excluded because of race, color, ethnic origin, immigration status, national origin, sex, marital or family status (including pregnancy and childcare plans), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by [the] Canons. (Title III, Canon 1, Section 2).
- Applicants must be at least thirty (30) years of age (Article 2, Section 2).
- Applicants must be an ordained priest in good standing (Title III, Canon 11, Section 3).



To enter discernment with us we ask that applicants complete this application form.

Please note that in addition to biographical information we will ask for:

- Cover letter stating your desire to join us in discernment
- Current resumé
- Two Essay Responses
- Release Agreement

Do you know someone who would be a good fit as our next bishop?

You can nominate them with this link.

Please know you will need to provide both the nominee's email and phone number.

Unsure if you should enter our process? Please feel free to reach out to The Rev. Sarah Lusk, Bishop Search Committee Chair, at searchcommittee@dioswva.org or Walker Adams, Search Consultant, at walker@episcopalconsulting.com. Let's discern together.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 AT 5:00 P.M. EST.

Timeline

Applicants in discernment with us should hold the following dates in their calendar:

- Interview Process: September – November
- Discernment Retreat With Finalists: November 3rd – 7th, 2025
- Diocesan Meet & Greet: January 5th – 9th, 2026
- Electing Convention: January 30–31st, 2026
- Consent Period: February – May, 2026
- Ordination of the 7th Bishop Diocesan: June 13th, 2026

For more information on the search process and for the latest updates, visit dioswva.org/welcome/bishop-search-election





*An abundance of thanks is owed to the members of the **Bishop Search Committee** whose dedication and faithful work brought together this snapshot of our diocesan story:*

- The Rev. Sarah Lusk, Chair | Christ Church, Blacksburg
- John Cros, Vice Chair, St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg
- The Rev. John Church, Chaplain, Appalachian Alliance
- Sandy Earls, St. Paul's Church, Norton
- John Jackson, St. John's Church, Roanoke
- Nick Moga, Emmanuel Church, Covington
- The Rev. Donna Steckline, Trinity Church, Arrington
- Kristin Tadlock-Bell, Christ Church, Roanoke
- The Rev. Dick Willis, St. Elizabeth's Church, Roanoke
- The Rev. William Yagel, Grace Church, Radford

[View profile references here.](#)





dioswva.org