



**Episcopal Church Women**  
Diocese of Virginia  
Cynthia Helton, President

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Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. I Peter 4:10

**Annual Report to the Diocese of Virginia**  
**November 2021**

**Mission Statement: The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Virginia, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, share the love of God by making Christ known in the world through prayer, education, concern for others and joyful service.**

October 25, 2021

Greetings,

This report summarizes the activities of the ECW Board of Directors of the Diocese of Virginia for the year 2021:

Our lives have continued to be filled with uncertainty in facing the realities of the world pandemic that grips our country. Despite disruptions, we gained new technological skills, and we have been able to continue many of our commitments to lift the ministries of our Church and to “serve with joy.” For the first time since February 2020, we plan to meet on October 30, 2021, in a hybrid meeting in which people who feel safe and wear a mask will meet in person, while those not attending in person may attend virtually. Meeting details follow later in this report.

On February 6, 2021, the Board of Directors held a virtual meeting to review the planned calendar of events for the year and to plan for Lenten Quiet Day (LQD). In partnership with Mother’s Union, USA, at Trinity Church, Arlington (MUTEC), we invited members to write meditations on scriptures from the Daily Office as part of our commitment to support The Triangle of Hope. The meditations were later distributed to the diocese on Constant Contact. Cindy Helton continued to preside as ECW President. Because of the uncertainties of the pandemic and other members of the board being unable to serve, Bishop Goff appointed Cindy to continue as ECW President for an additional year.

The LQD event on March 6, 2021, focused on the new resource created by the Episcopal Church, “From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference.” Our ECW Chaplain, The Very Rev. Kim Coleman, Archdean of the Diocese of Virginia and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Arlington, led the participants in examining why we should strive to cross the great divides that have developed in our national life. The focus was “Embracing Listening and Honest Conversation as Spiritual Disciplines.”

In other activities this spring, members of the board participated in virtual programs offered through their churches or by the Diocese of Virginia for reviewing racial divides and the steps to repentance and reconciliation through awareness, relationships, and commitment. In subsequent meetings, they reported on participation in book groups and Sacred Ground workshops.

Available to the entire Diocese on May 8, 2021, the ECW virtual program supported the goals of the Episcopal Church to look, listen, and learn to address issues as presented in the labyrinth for “Becoming a Beloved Community.” The Rev. Canon Jesus Reyes described the path that we should follow to tell the truth, to determine those excluded from benefits and to understand the reason. “All are children of God, and all must be included,” he advised. He added, “When we vote, consider what is good for everybody, and not just for ourselves alone.”

The second program on May 8, featured Michele Trampe of Central Virginia Justice Initiative. She described the broken system of dealing with human trafficking and raised our awareness on the complications of the crime. The work is “more than just rescuing the victims and trying to help them,” she said. Their needs range from requirements of food and shelter to medical, dental, mental health, and education. It was enlightening to learn that the repair work may be just to provide a day of safety, or to “plant a seed” of hope and light.

The worship service that followed began with the hymn, “Healing River of the Spirit,” and the homily by The Very Rev. Kim Coleman included the story of Julian of Norwich, who suffered during a pandemic centuries ago.

On August 7, 2021, the ECW Board of Directors met again to review its programs and activities. Members of the board reported on the status of their work during the past year. Gifts and Scholarships chair, Kathy Jimerson, indicated that \$4,600 in scholarships was awarded to ten outstanding applicants. Phenie Golatt described the work of the Church Periodical Club in awarding a grant to Anna Julia Cooper School for \$844.00.

Guided by the Episcopal Church’s format in “Becoming Beloved Community,” we were excited to plan an in-person meeting for October 30, 2021, for those who wear a mask and feel safe to attend. Those who cannot attend in person may join the meeting virtually. An invitation packet highlighting the work of the ECW was prepared and distributed online throughout the Diocese, primarily via email and Constant Contact, and registration was coordinated through Eventbrite. We are most grateful for the technological support of the diocesan staff.

This Annual Fall Meeting will be held on October 30, 2021, at the Church of the Epiphany, Richmond, and is open to the entire Diocese. The ECW is most grateful to The Rev. Andrew Reinholz, Rector, for his gracious invitation to meet in this beautiful space. The program speaker, The Rev. Dr. John Kinney, theologian, and pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Beaverdam, will address “Proclaiming the Dream: Sharing the Faith of Jesus,” another segment of the labyrinth on “Becoming Beloved Community” and paired with a diocesan goal. Also at this October 30 meeting, The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff will appoint the next ECW President of the Diocese of Virginia. The new president’s term of service will begin January 2022.

The Nominations Committee will outline the open positions on the ECW Board of Directors, and ECW President, Cindy Helton will name appointees. The closing worship service will be coordinated by The Very Rev. Kim Coleman, ECW Chaplain, with The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Celebrant. The Rev. Roberto Orihuela, Rector, Iglesia Episcopal Santa Maria, will preach. The ECW is thankful for all clergy who were willing to serve at this special meeting. For additional details, please visit the ECW Website at [www.ecw.thediocese.net](http://www.ecw.thediocese.net)

The last board meeting of the year will be held in person on November 6, 2021, at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Richmond. Finally, several board members plan to attend the 227<sup>th</sup> Convention of Diocese of Virginia virtually to serve as delegates from their church and to promote the work of ECW.

It has been an honor and a joy to serve as ECW President over the past four years. One of the highlights has been to learn more about the work of our larger Church by serving on the Diocesan Executive Board and at Convention. I have enjoyed tremendous support from the bishops, the diocesan staff, the clergy of this Diocese, and from all those who serve on the ECW Board of Directors.

With thanksgiving,

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