

# Potomac Region Report to the 227<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Of the Diocese of Virginia



## **Churches of the Potomac Region**

- + All Saints Sharon Chapel, Alexandria
- + Church of the Spirit, Alexandria
- + La Iglesia de San Marcos, Alexandria
  - + Olivet Church, Alexandria
  - + Pohick Church, Lorton
  - + Saint Aidans, Alexandria
- + Saint James Mount Vernon, Alexandria
- + Saint Luke's Wellington, Alexandria
  - + Saint Margaret's, Woodbridge
  - + Saint Mark's, Alexandria

**Region Dean:** The Very Rev. Cornelia "Corry" Weierbach, Church of the Spirit

**Region President:** Mr. R. Scott Caulkins, Olivet (term ends November 2021)

**Region Secretary:** The Hon. Stephen Mitchell, St. Mark's (term begins in 2022)

## **Region Council Meetings**

The Region Council held meetings on February 11, May 13 and September 9, 2021, via Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022.

## **Region News and Activities**

In May, 2021 the Rev. Fanny Belanger began ministry as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Margaret's.

Also in May, 2021 the Rev. Celal Kamran began ministry as Assistant Rector of Pohick Church. Celal was ordained to the priesthood on September 9, 2021.

In August St. Luke's bid farewell to Assistant Rector, the Rev. Chip Russell, who began ministry as Priest-in-Charge of St. Paul's, Norfolk (in the Diocese of Southern Virginia), and welcomed the Rev. Nicholas Hall as Priest-in-Charge.

St. Aidan's continues its discernment and search for a new Rector. The Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales currently serves as Interim Rector.

The Region Council elected the Hon. Stephen Mitchell of St. Mark's to become Region Secretary in 2022.

Potomac Episcopal, a collaboration of four churches in the region (Church of the Spirit, All Saints Sharon Chapel, St. Mark's, and Olivet) has undergone an extensive parish review process with the help of a lay-led Vision Team working for more than nine months. In August they published the Potomac Episcopal Vision Team Report recommending merging the four parishes to maintain and grow a progressive sacramental presence in their part of Fairfax County. The report can be found at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ef10c6244302c21591294df/t/611f0ebe27f8d34dc6a3f557/1629425344367/Potomac+Episcopal+Vision+Team+Report.pdf>

As the four parishes contend with this news and how best to move forward, Potomac Episcopal seeks to petition the Diocese for parish status and requested that the Potomac Region endorse the petition. This step goes back to days when having a new parish in the region might seem like a conflict of interest or competition. Instead, Potomac Episcopal began as an online presence in May 2020 and will continue that work in the region with hybrid worship, daily morning and evening worship, missional communities, and formation. This action will not require any parish to merge, dissolve, or otherwise discontinue. By becoming a parish, Potomac Episcopal will offer the region a new way to be God's hands and feet while also growing our branch of the Jesus Movement.

In September the Region council voted to endorse the intent of Potomac Episcopal to apply for parish status in accordance with Canon 10, Section 2, after getting approval from the Executive Board, at the Diocese of Virginia's 2021 Annual Convention in November.

All Saints Sharon Chapel has formed a reparations team that is exploring ways churches in our Region and Diocese can make amends for their role in perpetuating slavery. The Rev. Cayce Ramey invites anyone interested in participating in the discussion to contact him or visit the team's Facebook group, "Good Trouble - Diocese of Virginia".

The Region is exploring an opportunity to collaborate and implement long term help for an Afghan refugee family. Saint Luke's Outreach Committee and Potomac Episcopal's Racial Justice Ministry (PERJM) will work to bring all interested parties together.