

CR-3 Resolution Honoring Ministry of The Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff

Whereas, the Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff, has announced that she will soon retire, after a long and fruitful ministry in the Diocese of Virginia; and

Whereas, since June 1980, Bishop Goff has faithfully served the people and clergy of this Diocese as Deacon, Priest, Canon to the Ordinary, Bishop Suffragan, and Ecclesiastical Authority, and

Whereas, Bishop Goff has served as chaplain of two Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia, as the rector of two congregations, as canon to the ordinary, as Bishop Suffragan, and since November 2018, as our Ecclesiastical Authority, and has done so with devotion, integrity, and imagination, enlivened by her artistic gifts; and

Whereas, prior to her consecration as Bishop Suffragan she served this Diocese as chair of the Committee on Youth Ministry, as a member of the Commission on Liturgy and Church Music, as director of the New Clergy Development Program, as a Deputy at three General Conventions, as Dean of two different Regions, and as a member of two Standing Committees, among other important and demanding roles; and

Whereas, Bishop Goff has championed the causes of women's ordination, full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in all orders of ministry and in the life of the Church and our country, youth, the environment, and racial justice, and bravely persisted in the face of heated and sometimes vituperative attacks upon her for these efforts; and

Whereas, after the resignation of The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston as Bishop of Virginia, Bishop Goff gracefully and canonically assumed the sudden and unanticipated role of Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Virginia, implementing two series of listening sessions to learn her people's concerns and needs for new diocesan directions; and

Whereas, Bishop Goff demonstrated strong leadership, fortitude and determination in carrying out her duties as Ecclesiastical Authority through the ongoing and unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, acting decisively to protect the health and safety of our people during a dangerous and fearful time in our county, while leading our congregations and diocese through a difficult and essential transition to virtual and hybrid church, including the successful conduct of three virtual Diocesan Conventions, even as she successfully battled breast cancer; and

Whereas, Bishop Goff has announced that she will begin her well-earned retirement after forty-two years of ordained ministry on 31 December 2022, after the Consecration of our next Diocesan Bishop;

Now therefore, be it

Resolved, by the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that

1. We extend our profound thanks for Bishop Susan's ministry among us, for the many gifts she shared with us through this long ministry, and particularly for her courageous efforts on all our behalf and on behalf of the Gospel as Ecclesiastical Authority and through the pandemic; and
2. We express our very best wishes for a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement to her and her husband, our friend and colleague, the Rev. C. Thomas Holliday; and
3. We pray that the Lord will bless her and Tom with good health and the knowledge that their efforts have helped spread the love of our Lord far and wide, and to all kinds of people, just as the Gospel commands.

Respectfully submitted,

Officers and Staff of the Diocese of Virginia