

### **R-13a Resolution in Support of Shrine Mont Camps**

WHEREAS our Shrine Mont Camps provide a vital tool for spreading good news, connecting our children, youth, and families to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Diocese of Virginia, and

WHEREAS our Shrine Mont Camps are a source of unity within the body of Christ in this diocese, and that the Holy Spirit animates, leads, and encourages that body with particular enthusiasm at Shrine Mont, and

WHEREAS the staff of the Diocese of Virginia has worked diligently and commendably to provide excellent summer camp programs for our children, youth, and families at Shrine Mont, and

WHEREAS our Shrine Mont Camps are and have been one of the core ministries and strengths of this diocese for nearly 60 years, an engine for mission, one of the signature components of our diocesan youth ministries, and have declared with one voice that “God loves the world,” and

WHEREAS the unique identities of each of our Shrine Mont Camps have been a key element in the way our camps have nurtured a robust Christian faith for the thousands of campers they have served and have resulted in the sustained Christian formation of many Episcopal clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese and beyond, and

WHEREAS there has been a steady decline in Shrine Mont Camp enrollments, there was no in-person camp program in the summer of 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was a modified camp program in the summer of 2021, this Convention expresses our concern for the continued strength and health of this critical ministry if we lose the continuity of our camp programs for a third summer, and

WHEREAS there are many parents, youth, clergy, and former staff, chaplains, and directors of Shrine Mont Camps who have expressed an eagerness to volunteer to assist the staff of our Diocese with the promotion, preparation, and organization of Shrine Mont Camps for the summer of 2022 and into the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 227th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia expresses its deepest thanks to the Bishops and the staff of our Diocese for their

dedication to leading Shrine Mont Camps, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention calls upon our Bishop to seek input and a broad consensus from interested stakeholders on a strategic plan that honors our camps' historic strengths and supports their long-term health for future generations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention requests that after the conclusion of this convention the Bishop and Executive Board immediately appoint an *ad hoc* committee on Shrine Mont Camps, including parents, youth, clergy, and former staff, chaplains, and directors of Shrine Mont Camps, to both support the promotion and organization of the camps for the summer of 2022, and to prepare a report to be submitted to the Annual Convention of this Diocese providing specific recommendations for the future development of each of the Shrine Mont Camps, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention acknowledges the importance of both continuity and innovation for development and growth, and, in that spirit, expresses its desire to maintain the individual identities, age-specific sessions, and unique programs of Explorers Camp, Music and Theatre Camp, St. Andrew's Camp, St. Elizabeth's Camp, Family Camp, St. George's Camp, Senior High Youth Conference, St. Sebastian's Sports Camp, and Art Camp in the summer of 2022, and until a report generated by the *ad hoc* committee is submitted to the Annual Convention of this Diocese, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention asks the Bishop and Executive Board to strongly consider the formation of a permanent Shrine Mont Camps Committee to support the staff of our Diocese in this vital work for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Beth Magill Franklin,  
Rector, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Arlington

The Rev. Pete Nunnally  
Associate Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington

The Rev. Ben Campbell  
Pastoral Associate, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond

The Rev. Charles Cowherd  
Associate Rector, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Burke

Ms. Mary Ann Cowherd  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Culpeper, Member Executive Board

Ms. Barbie Frank  
Delegate, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA

The Rev. Andrew T. P. Merrow  
Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington

The Rev. Dr. John McCard  
Rector, St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond