

DRAFT

Resolution #

Submitted by: The Executive Board

Concerning: Disaster Preparedness Planning in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Whereas: On October 10, 2005, The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church passed Resolution CIM-039 recommending that dioceses and congregations take steps to provide instructions to clergy and other leaders concerning what to do in the event of a natural disaster or a terrorist event.

Whereas: On February 28, 2006, Bishop Neff Powell wrote to clergy and wardens in charge of parishes on the subject of disaster response planning and included a booklet with instructions on how to prepare a plan. The Bishop requested that each parish prepare a plan and furnish a copy to him for coordination with diocesan staff preparedness planning.

Whereas: On September 28, 2007, Episcopal Relief and Development provided additional criteria for enhancement of diocesan and parish emergency planning based upon ERD experience in responding to disasters of all kinds.

Whereas: The tragedy of the shootings on April 16, 2007 at Virginia Tech reminds us that major disasters are sudden and often totally unexpected. They place tremendous burdens on the clergy and planning for their support by lay volunteers is critical.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

It is the policy of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia that the diocesan staff, all parishes, missions, and diocesan institutions take the necessary measures to have current disaster preparedness plans in place at all times, based upon ERD criteria and guidance from the Bishop.