

Resolution #10

Concerning: Support of the Leadership and Displaced Members of the Diocese of Virginia

From: The Wardens and Rector of Emmanuel, Staunton

WHEREAS the Executive Board of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia has adopted a resolution declaring the property of eleven of its Churches to be abandoned due to certain members of those churches – including their vestries and clergy – voting to leave the Episcopal Church, and

WHEREAS Bishop Peter James Lee has made repeated efforts to accommodate the views of the leadership of these churches to no avail but, instead, has been treated as a *persona non grata*, as a duly recognized representative of the Episcopal Church, receiving personal attacks including death threats; and

WHEREAS the remnant Episcopal members of these congregations are seeking to reorganize after being turned away from their own church buildings, and

WHEREAS the leadership of the Diocese of Virginia, having exhausted all diplomatic and ecclesiastic courses of action with regard to property and clergy disputes with these dissenting churches, is now forced to resolve the property and other vital issues in civil courts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia acknowledge the difficult and painful decisions being made by the leadership of the Diocese of Virginia and prayerfully support its Bishop and all displaced Episcopalians in their efforts to reorganize and reclaim their churches, and also prayerfully support those members who have left the Episcopal Church as they continue to discern God's call in their faith journeys.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia extends its sincere congratulations to the Very Rev. Shannon Johnston on his election as Bishop Coadjutor, assuring him, Bishop Lee, Bishop Jones and the Diocese of Virginia of our prayers and support in this time of transition and new life.