



The Episcopal Church in South Carolina



January 18, 2019

Dear People of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina,

This letter comes to you in a spirit of celebration and thanksgiving. The support you continue to manifest for the life and ministry of our Diocese is to be commended. You do so while exercising leadership, remaining connected, and joining in our common mission of God's liberating Gospel in Christ.

I want you to know that now that we have been able to close the 2018 financial books, the parishes and worshiping communities of the Diocese exceeded what you initially promised to send in support. Diocesan Council and I wish to extend our gratitude for your wonderful response. This is especially important because, understandably, gifts from outside the Diocese have fallen off over the last couple of years.

There is more good news to celebrate. Promised giving for 2019 has for the first time in our re-forming Diocese exceeded \$500,000. We are still waiting to hear from a small number of parishes, but it looks like our pledges will be approximately \$515,000. Last fall during the Pre-Convention Deanery Meetings and Diocesan Convention, our Diocesan Council did an outstanding job of presenting the 2019 budget and making the case for giving at the requested 10 percent level. I am grateful to report that there have been many positive responses, and more congregations are planning either to meet that goal in 2019, or make a significant step in that direction.

While financial numbers alone do not indicate all that is happening in a community, they are a substantial outward and visible sign of the commitment of our faith communities and the people of God doing Christ's work in and through the local mission stations of The Episcopal Church.

We still have many unknowns before us, to be sure. What I do know, however, is that we continue on in faithfulness to God for the work that we have been given to do. Just this morning I was struck once again by the words from the Daily Office in the Suffrages when we say: "In you Lord is our hope; and we shall never hope in vain."

Blessings and grace to you all in Jesus' Name,

The Rt. Rev. Gladstone B. Adams III
Bishop Provisional
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina