



THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Report of Institutions

230th Annual Diocesan Convention

BISHOP GADSDEN



Diocesan Annual Report 2019-2020

We give thanks for our 170-years of growth and service and for an enduring mission that calls us to care for one another, affirming grace, integrity, stewardship, and generosity. At our last convention, we celebrated Bill Trawick's 34 years of service as President/CEO and honored his retirement in October. His legacy has given life to the exceptional Community we know today, home to some 500 residents and the livelihood of over 400 team members. A joyful energy resonates throughout, inviting participation, discovery, connection and growth. Life at Bishop Gadsden is full of opportunity. Yet it is our larger purpose here that brings meaning.

Health and Rehab Center/Shared Future Campaign

Our beautiful new Health and Rehab Center will provide new exceptional post-acute and transitional care in the Christie Rehab Center, along with both new and replacement facilities for our long term care and memory support services. As plans for these facilities were being finalized last year, a campaign was initiated to raise the final \$5 million to bring the vision to fruition. To date, the Shared Future campaign has raised over \$5.3 million to enhance the innovative design and programs that will support the exceptional, compassionate care provided when construction is complete in early 2022. This expansion reaffirms Bishop Gadsden's position as the market leader in senior living and health care services.

Life during COVID-19

It is hard to think about this year without reflecting on the major impact of COVID-19. In a community where those most vulnerable are living and thriving, safety and infection prevention became paramount, and so did finding joy in our temporary "new normal". At no other time in recent history has our Community generosity and gratitude been so continuously palpable. Around the clock over these past months, the beautiful spirit of care for one another was evident as we supported our neighbors and smiled through the anxiety and uncertainty. Gratitude and grace prevailed. We thanked God every day for the very important part played by each and every team member, resident, and the extended families of Bishop Gadsden. We prayed, and innovated, created and connected. We were apart but never alone.

Outreach

A generosity of spirit is not only apparent inside our community but in the way we have responded to needs in the greater Charleston community too. Through support of effective ministries and non-profit organizations in Charleston such as James Island Outreach, 180 Place, Metanoia, Charleston Parks, and Hallie Hill, the Bishop Gadsden Community has fed the hungry, provided medical care for the poor, and helped shelter those in need. Last year over \$280,000 was raised by Bishop Gadsden residents and shared among these and other wonderful organizations. In addition, the Resident Assistance program has provided \$704,000 to residents who have outlived their resources in their most fragile time of life. Over the past 19 years, some \$8.5 million has been raised and shared through our Charitable Mission endeavors, blessing countless families and individuals.

New Pipe Organ

A very special blessing we recently received was the gift of the Fei Family Organ, a beautiful Schoenstein 3 manual 16 rank pipe organ completed in October. It will bring heavenly sounds to those who worship in the Chapel and joy to the entire Community.

Just as in 1850 when Bishop Christopher Gadsden was moved to establish a new ministry to widows and orphans, the same Spirit inspires us today to care for one another. We are pleased to share this on-going story of ministry and generosity. Through it, we honor all those at Bishop Gadsden – past and present - who have served, loved, and given to bring the blessing of community to all who live and work here. Thank you for being part of this ministry.

President/CEO



Report to the Diocese of South Carolina - 2020 -

At the start of 2020, Kanuga was poised for a bright and successful year. The conference center was booked solid and predictions showed that Camp Kanuga and Mountain Trail Outdoor School could have record-breaking seasons. Staff members were on the road promoting Kanuga at national conferences such as Rooted in Jesus, Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, and diocesan conventions. The advancement office was beginning to develop plans for a capital campaign that would focus on the Chapel of the Transfiguration and include infrastructure improvements.

That winter, the leadership team was continuing its strategic work and design thinking, facilitated by Bishop Brian Prior, and a task force was being formed to re-imagine Kanuga's program offerings for the 21st century. The board of trustees met at Kanuga March 11-13. They would be the last guests at Kanuga until Memorial Day weekend.

Throughout March and April, more than \$7.5 million in conference center reservations were canceled. In April, we began working very hard through communications efforts to keep our constituents engaged, and very quickly reached out for support from those who love Kanuga. We were fortunate to experience an abundance of it, both in prayers and donations. These donations, coupled with funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), initially kept Kanuga open on a limited scale. But what we naively thought might last three months, by May was forecast to last more than a year. Camp Bob, Camp Kanuga, and Mountain Trail Outdoor School suspended operations indefinitely. And along with these measures, in phases Kanuga began to furlough and/or reduce salaries of staff.

Kanuga was able to open for Memorial Day weekend for limited guest retreats with health and safety measures in place, fully compliant with the Centers for Disease Control and state and local guidelines. The subsequent spring retreats resulted in a degree of revenue, but not nearly enough to cover expenses. We began to face the inevitable: we had to downsize yet again in order to preserve the institution. The survival of Kanuga's mission became our sole focus. Our goal was to survive as the gathering place for all people in the furtherance of the mission of the church. All the while, conversations about the new mountain bike park continued, and initial trail development began.

We were determined to keep our mission alive by remaining open in some way to guests for respite, healing, and renewal. Week by week (sometimes day to day), we adjusted everything about our guest experience—from accommodations to meals, housekeeping to facilities maintenance, and trail conservation to waterfront staff—in response to evolving government safety guidelines. Our mantra of “keep it simple” has meant offering lodging only (no accompanying programming) and a re-invention (several times) of our meal service. We normally serve three meals a day in our dining rooms. This summer, we created a grab-and-go-gourmet menu. August-September: a B&B retreats model, continental breakfast only. October: three full meals a day created in partnership with a neighboring summer camp. For Thanksgiving: three full meals a day and a Thanksgiving day feast. For upcoming

winter weekend 2021 retreats, we plan to return to the B&B continental breakfast model, perhaps also serving as a location for micro-weddings and retreats.

One of the most interesting and provocative things we began offering in summer, is the brainchild of The Rev Michael Sullivan (our president and CEO): “Face to Face: Conversations from Kanuga.” In summer, we held four ZOOM conversations hosted by Michael that focused on the critical ways in which the Church can be fully present during this time of racial strife. Guests included (in order of the schedule) Ambassador Reuben Brigety, Sewanee; Dean Randy Hollerith, Washington National Cathedral; Presiding Bishop Curry; and Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas. 300+ souls joined us for these. (links to all four are [here](#), at bottom of page). In November, another set of conversations will be held, these focused on the role creative professionals play in spirituality and justice.

Additional virtual offerings since the pandemic began have included co-hosting Kanuga Christian Formation, Youth Week, Enneagram, Art & Soul, and the upcoming youth Winterlight conference.

There are other ways that Kanuga has been able to get our constituents engaged. Kanuga Trail Conservancy has been in existence for many years on a smaller, very localized scale. During COVID times, we recognized that the ability to explore our 1,400 acres, 30-acre lake, and 20 miles of hiking trails—outside in the fresh air—would offer an experience of adventure and exploration to help people get out of the house, take a break from technology, and reconnect with themselves and nature. One of the key elements of membership is our trail volunteer days. With our massive furloughs, this has been important for the maintenance and care of our extensive property. And we’ve found that it appeals not only to our neighbors in close proximity, but also to our friends around the region.

Ride Kanuga mountain bike park had been in the works for several years, and the timing of its opening in July could not have been better for Kanuga. Ride Kanuga is not owned by Kanuga; we have a business partnership with that group that brings riders to Kanuga (most for the first time) to enjoy our property and overnight accommodations. Ride Kanuga has seen hundreds of guests since opening in mid-July. For Labor Day, we created a “Ride & Stay” promotion; nearly 30% of all lodging guests that weekend were Ride Kanuga mountain bike families. Ride Kanuga has resulted in a significant boost in our lodging reservations and exposed Kanuga to an entirely new demographic.

A miraculous shift is now blessing us. Instead of seeing unknowing as a threat, we are beginning to see it as God’s blessing. This is our opportunity to change, to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the tradition of our founder Bishop Finlay, daring to adapt, grow, fail, learn, and reinvent. While every team member wishes we could go back, we recognize now that we cannot.

Some people will return. Some will not. Our core values, mission, and vision haven’t changed. We remain focused on being a gathering place for all people to engender a world of good for all God’s people. The pandemic does not change that. Rather, we work diligently to adapt to the reality of God’s creation, ever evolving, ever moving toward glimpses of the kingdom. As the one called to shepherd this team through the storm, I commit myself daily to letting God’s mission, not ours, define who we are and who we will become.

While in the grasp of the Depression in 1930, Bishop Finlay wrote this in his journal: “I lifted mine eyes up unto these hills, from whence cometh my help, not knowing what will come of this place we now call home.” Those words echo today, and with the anonymous author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, I cling to these ancient words in my prayers: “When you first begin, you find only darkness, as it were, a cloud of unknowing. You

don't know what this means except that in your will you feel a simple steadfast intention reaching out towards God. Do what you will, and this darkness and this cloud remain between you and God... Reconcile yourself to wait in this darkness as long as is necessary, but still go on longing after Christ whom you love.”

We are continually evaluating our financial outlook. After COVID, after an intense election, and during this time of racial unrest, people need places like Kanuga. Our staff is working nonstop to make sure Kanuga will be here to fulfill its mission—“to welcome **all** people to connect with each other, nature, and the Creator”—for another 100 years.

Kanuga is slowly gearing back up as North Carolina relaxes its response. With all health and safety policies remaining in place, we are seeing an uptick in lodging reservations for the fall and holiday seasons. We are getting calls about “micro-weddings” and other small groups who would like to be with us in the spring. We began taking reservations for Camp Kanuga reservations in October, and cannot wait to welcome our campers back.

We have learned much. Old practices that made us inefficient have become all the more apparent, demanding innovation and adaptation. We must operate within our earned and contributed income to reduce our reliance on a line of credit. Our endowment is not large and operations must become more sustainable. We must pay a living wage. We must care for our property. That's expensive. But we must make it. We must survive. Our mission is too critical for the church and beyond.

When we emerge from this valley, we have the tremendous responsibility to make this institution stronger and bolder for the mission of the Church. That is our constant focus and our team is doing all it can to ensure that Kanuga is here for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael".

Michael R. Sullivan
President / CEO



Religious Life: Annual Report

**The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina
Porter-Gaud Board of Trustees
November, 2020**

LEADERSHIP

J. Walker Coleman '87 is the currently-elected Chair of the Board of Trustees. He began his first 3-year term in July 2019. Cordes Ford '94 is chair of the Porter-Gaud Foundation, which oversees the philanthropic efforts for the school including the current capital campaign for a new performing arts center and auditorium as well as a chapel. There are three clergy representatives on the board in addition to eighteen other members: The Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence, The Rev. Canon Caleb J. Lee, and The Rev. Greg Snyder. Dr. John McCardell, Vice Chancellor of Sewanee, is also serving on the Board of Trustees. DuBose Egleston is in his 12th year as Head of School. DuBose currently serves on the Governing Board for the National Association of Episcopal Schools and the Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Independent Schools.

CHAPLAINCY FACULTY AND STAFF

Mr. David Rowe - Lower School Chaplain
Ms. Henrietta M. Rivers - Middle School Chaplain
The Rev. Charles Echols, PhD - Upper School Chaplain and Chair of the Religion Department
Mr. Nick Rindge - Upper School Religion Faculty and Lay Chaplain

HISTORY

Porter-Gaud has a long history of living out its spiritual identity as an independent Episcopal school rooted in the rich heritage of Anglicanism. For much of its history, Porter-Gaud had one chaplain who taught all the religion classes, conducted chapel services, and provided pastoral care for the school community. As the School has grown and the needs for ministry have increased, the Board of Trustees has bolstered the chaplaincy so that there are now three full-time chaplains on campus in addition to a faculty member teaching Religion classes and supporting student ministry.

WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

In addition to the traditional celebration of Holy Communion each Thursday morning in St. Timothy's Chapel, there is a weekly chapel on a divisional basis for the Lower, Middle, and Upper School students and faculty. The School observes the major festivals of the church calendar. Advent chapel services are held in all three divisions. The Lower School holds a Christmas chapel and the Middle and Upper Schools have a Christmas Eucharist. The School's service of Lessons and Carols, held at the Church of the Holy Communion, is a tradition that dates back over 30 years and is a highlight of the Christmas season for the school community. All three divisions mark Ash Wednesday in their respective chapels, and the Middle and Upper Schools celebrate the Eucharist during Holy Week. The Middle and Upper Schools have, furthermore, developed a vibrant ministry of student groups. Vestry and Bible study groups meet weekly with strong attendance. Vestry members hold significant leadership roles on campus and assist in leading worship in chapel, planning and leading the fall retreat, leading small groups, and helping the chaplain plan and refine weekly chapel services. The chaplains continue to develop this ministry and are

discussing service opportunities, and how to develop a sequential curriculum for student spiritual growth.

ACADEMICS

Porter-Gaud offers Godly Play and character education curricula in the Lower School that focus on the major stories of the Bible in tandem with selected virtues each month. In Middle School, the character education thread is developed curricularly in 5th and 6th grade in C. S. Lewis's *Narnia* novels, Bible stories, and through Advisory, Chapel, and other divisional programming. Eighth graders take a survey course of the Old Testament. The Upper School features a required course in the New Testament and Ethics and an elective on the writings of C. S. Lewis. The Upper School Department of History curriculum includes World Religions as an elective every other year.

SERVICE

Porter-Gaud has an active community service program through which students volunteer thousands of hours annually to assist various agencies throughout the Lowcountry. Service opportunities are available with agencies working with at-risk and special-needs children, environmental and animal welfare, health and senior-adult issues, and hunger and poverty needs.

RELIGIOUS LIFE SINCE MARCH 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has necessitated numerous changes for the school, including religious life. For much of the time, education has been fully or partially virtual, and weekly teaching hours have reduced. Following directives from the Academic Dean, the chaplains have prioritized the essentials of their respective curricula. Similarly, the inability to hold large gatherings has necessitated a shift in conducting chapel services. Middle School chapels are run virtually. Lower School chapels started virtually, but are currently held by grade level in the gym, or, when weather permits, outside. Upper School services are conducted virtually by grade level, the number of students too great for an in-person venue. At the outset of the pandemic, when the school operated entirely virtually, chaplains produced devotional videos for students that found appreciation by their families and even wider audiences. To free time for Bible study on Wednesdays, the Upper School offered Compline on Tuesdays at 9pm. The pandemic has led to a sharp increase in demand for pastoral counseling, and the chaplains are grateful to the Porter-Gaud Parent Association which has provided essential logistical support (e.g., meals, transportation) to families following a number of deaths in the community. While the pandemic is clearly challenging, it has brought opportunities for chaplains to offer significant ministry to students, their families, staff, administration, and faculty.

PORTER-GAUD MISSION STATEMENT

Porter-Gaud is an Episcopal, coeducational, independent, college preparatory day school. We acknowledge the sovereignty of God, recognize the worth of the individual, and seek to cultivate a school community that endows its citizens with a foundation of moral and ethical character and intellect. Porter-Gaud fosters a challenging academic environment that honors excellence in teaching and learning, respects differences, expects honesty, and applauds achievement. The school strives to create an environment that nurtures and protects what we value most in our children: their faith, their curiosity, their talents, their integrity, their humanity, and their dreams.

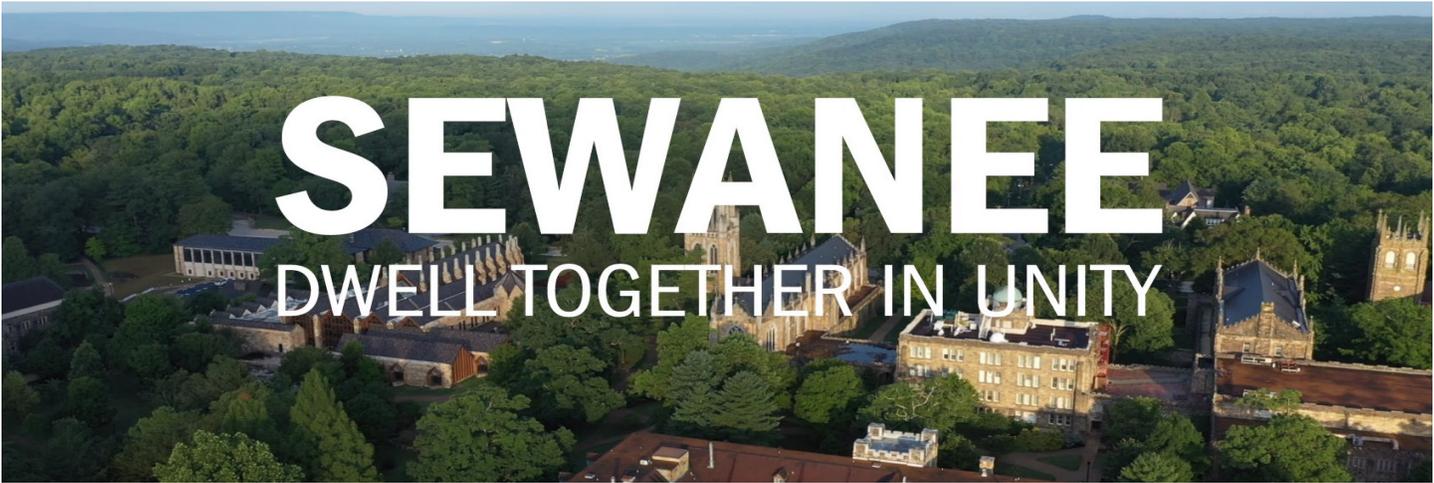
EPISCOPAL IDENTITY AT PORTER-GAUD

As an Episcopal school, Porter-Gaud stands on the foundation of Anglican theology rooted in the Scriptures and expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. Because the school community is inclusive and

diverse, we cultivate a climate of respectful dialog in matters of faith. The School respects different faith traditions while simultaneously emphasizing its Episcopal core. We uphold the principles of honesty and integrity and the pursuit of moral and ethical character. Inherent in the Porter-Gaud mission is the belief that we possess certain distinctive gifts and talents given to us by a loving God. The school community reflects this belief, and our teachers are committed to helping each student discover his or her gifts and talents.

THE WATCH PRAYER

O Lord, may our words be full of truth and kindness, our actions gracious and honorable, our thoughts unselfish and charitable, our character noble and upright, and our habits virtuous, that our school family may grow in faith, honor, and knowledge, as we watch together in all things. AMEN.



Located on the Cumberland Plateau in southern Tennessee, Sewanee is the Episcopal University. Coming to the Mountain can be like coming home. And we touch the lives of Episcopalians through a superb College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Theology with rigorous and innovative new programs and a commitment to supporting Episcopalians preparing for lay and ordained ministry, and a full slate of summer programs that enrich the lives (and faith journeys) of youth. To learn more, to recommend a student, or to become a partner with us in this important work, visit

EPISCOPAL.SEWANEE.EDU

**Report For
DIOCESE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA
OCTOBER 2020**

FINANCES (fiscal year ending June 30, 2020)

Diocesan donations to Sewanee: \$2,000
Donations from parishes in the Diocese: \$1,650
Percentage of parishes making donations: 15.63%
Financial aid to college students from the area: \$727,729
Financial Aid Awarded to Episcopal students (college and seminary) : \$170,220

On average, dioceses received \$38 for each dollar donated to Sewanee.

DIOCESAN ENGAGEMENT MEASURES

College students from the area: 35
Episcopal college students: 11
Residential seminarians: 0
Advanced Degree Students: 1

DIOCESAN TRUSTEES

The Rev. Rob Donehue
Jane Hart Lewis
Thomas Miller

**University Of The South
ALMANAC
2020 - 2021**

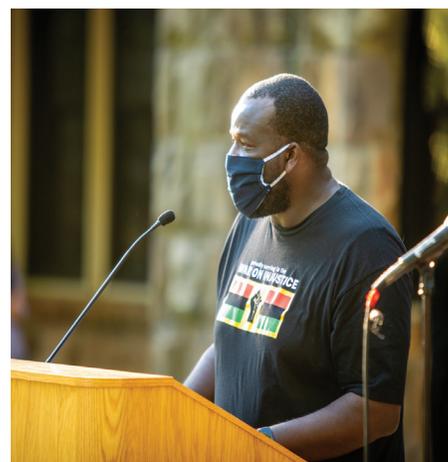
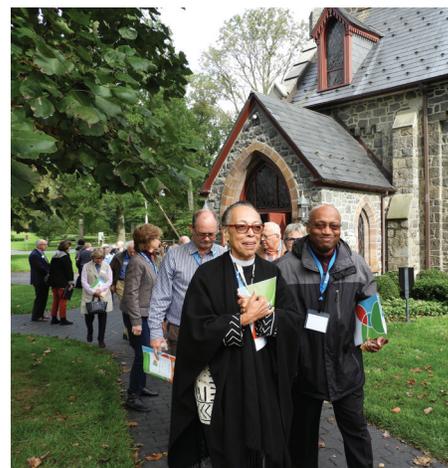
COLLEGE

Enrollment in the College: 1733
Class of 2024: 494
Number of applicants for Fall 2020: 4992
Percent of students who identify as Episcopalian: 22%
Percentage of first-year college students receiving a scholarship or need-based aid: 98%

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Residential Enrollment in the Seminary: 74
Summer advanced degree and non-degree enrollment: 74
Percentage of full-time, residential seminarians receiving a scholarship or need-based aid: 95%
Average number of Education for Ministry (EfM) groups per Diocese: 8

Key Programs



Sewanee touches the lives of many people throughout the country and beyond through superb educational programs for college students, seminarians, lay leaders, and lifelong learners.

*(Top left) Each summer high school youth ascend to the Mountain to participate in the **SUMMA Student Theological Debate Society**, learning formal debate and wrestling with important theological questions. (Lower left) The flagship program of the **Beecken Center, Education for Ministry (EfM)** has enriched the lives of thousands of Episcopalians, conferring a greater sense of ministry. (Top right) The **Invite Welcome Connect** ministry energizes congregations and leads them to greater thriving. (Middle right) Seminarians such as Malcolm McLaurin, T'21, find Sewanee a welcoming place to prepare for a call to ministry. (Bottom right) Seminarians such as Hannah Pommersheim, T19, and college students collaborate on such investigations as the Roberson Project, which is looking critically and carefully at the history of the University and the church through the lens of race relations. To learn more, visit **episcopal.sewanee.edu**.*

SEWANEE
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Staff contact:
Bess Turner
Director of Church Relations
University of the South
931.598.1460
bessturner@sewanee.edu

2020 Annual Report

Danny Sanford, Chief Executive Officer

Unprecedented. How many times have we heard that word in 2020? “Unprecedented” times. This year has certainly been one for the books, and not always in a good way. However, this year has also brought many unexpected joys in the midst of difficult days.

Our report to you last year touched on multiple projects that had either been recently completed or were on the road to completion. Our Greenway building and on-site medical practice continue to be a major blessing to our campus. In addition, our new Hopewell building is still steadily marching on to meet the projected completion date of early 2021. Other projects, like the intergenerational community in York, South Carolina, have struggled somewhat to continue to move forward while this global pandemic understandably dampens fundraising efforts. However, amidst the pause, we have also been able to press play on projects that we could not have dreamed of last year. Still Hopes has been able to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands to open a program at a local elementary school that provides Still Hopes and Lexington Two School District staff with a safe place for their children during the day. The program allows children to have a place to complete their online learning in a monitored way, along with providing the children with stimulating activities. This program has helped numerous employees who otherwise would not have had a place for their children to go during the day. This certainly has been an unexpected joy.

Another unexpected joy has simply been to watch the Still Hopes staff and residents come together like never before. While things are certainly different around our campus right now, our spirit is still shining brightly. Our staff and our residents have come up with new and innovative ways to keep residents social (safely!) and active. Their creativity has certainly been something to behold. Our residents have stated time and time again how grateful they are to call Still Hopes home during this “unprecedented” time. The fact that residents and staff can physically see one another and metaphorically lean on each other right now, is a major blessing. So while this is a time in history like never before, our campus’ family is coming together like never before. We are truly blessed!

Still Hopes’ Mission is to provide a faith-based community where life will be rich and full as God intends it to be, holding to our values, serving one another with dedication, and promoting health and wellness for all. Never before have we honored our Mission as well as we do today, and be assured that we will continue to find ways to further brighten the journey of our residents and their families. Your role, as supporters of our efforts, is vital to our success and we thank you for your kindnesses, both with your monetary support and your prayers. It is my pleasure to bring you this report and to continue to serve this great ministry organization.

Blessings,



I. 2019-2020 Core Strategic Goals and Priorities for the College

- A. Goal #1 Demonstrate Academic Excellence and Distinction
- B. Goal #2 Facilitate Student Success
- C. Goal #3 Ensure Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness
- D. Goal #4 Strengthen Resource Development

II. Update on Specific Strategic Objectives**A. SPRING 2020- Goal #1: Demonstrate Academic Excellence and Distinction.**

Objective 1.2, a team of 10 employees attended the Annual SACSCOC Conference in Houston, TX last December; Dr. Hopkins serves as the campus liaison, and he, Ms. O’Berry, and I will be serving as members on visiting assessment teams over the next 10 months. Objective 1.3, the VC Online degree program has been fully implemented this semester. Objective 1.4, an ACBSP self-study for our business degree programs was due in June and a virtual site visit just occurred this month. Objective 1.5, Ms. Karen Countz was selected as the new coordinator for the W. Franklin Evans Honors College. A *Master Class Series* has been implemented to expose scholars to a diverse group of professionals each month. Objective 1.6, Dr. X. Zheng was awarded the Henry McBay Faculty Research Fellowship. The contract was signed for receipt of the \$300,000 UNCF Liberal Arts Innovation Center for Healthcare Access and Equity award.

B. FALL 2020- Goal #1: Demonstrate Academic Excellence and Distinction.

Objective 1.2 focuses on maintaining regional accreditation. Led by Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, accreditation liaison, the College is underway in preparing its self-study. Assignments have been made for persons to draft narratives and provide supporting documentation that demonstrates compliance with the various standards. The College’s updated Policy Manual needs to be approved by the Board immediately. This impacts policies, regulations, and procedures that the College is supposedly adhering to and staying in compliance. Objective 1.4, increasing specialized accreditations, is something the Department of Business and Entrepreneurship has been doing. The department had its reaffirmation team visit October 5-7. The visiting team highlighted the strengths of our department, but it also identified areas of improvement needed to remain in compliance with the ACBSP guidelines and standards. Dr. Katherine Whitaker, department chairperson, has led that initiative for the College. Kudos is extended to Dr. Ronnie Hopkins and the team for two grant

awards from the US Department of Education. Objective 1.6, enhancing teaching and research, is one of the ways in which Voorhees College exemplifies its distinction as an institution. The College was awarded \$6M to implement the V-NET: Voorhees Network for Enhanced Teaching. This Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant supports innovative teacher preparation models. The second grant received in the amount of \$13.3M spans three years and is entitled RISE: Rigorous Instruction Supports Equity. Its purpose is to increase the number of highly effective educators in the area.

C. SPRING 2020-Goal #2: Facilitate Student Success.

Objective 2.1, the retention rate for fall 2019 was 61%; that is the highest rate achieved in over 10 years. Objective 2.3, at the close of spring 2020 registration, 26 new students were enrolled along with 5,110 new applications were received for fall 2020 with 2,569 being accepted; the Summer Transition program was planned to target provisionally accepted students. Objective 2.4, a variety of speakers were planned for Black History Month to include Jimmy Walker, Rev. Robert Jemondae Taylor (Absalom Jones speaker), and Cynthia Butler McIntyre and students participated in the King's Day Rally at the SC State House in Columbia. Objective 2.6, Five students and five employees traveled to Monrovia, Liberia in December for an experiential learning initiative and the delegation met with U.S. officials at the Embassy to assist with the recruitment of Liberians to Voorhees College; due to restrictions being placed on the country for receiving visas, the VC Online is being urged to potential students. Objective 2.7, three track and field athletes qualified for the national indoor championships. Objective 2.9, space is being renovated in the Dawson Center for the campus wellness program. Objective 2.10, the Voorhees College Department of Business and Entrepreneurship signed a Strategic Alliance MOU with the United States Small Business Administration on January 15.

FALL 2020- Goal #2: Facilitate Student Success

Although last year's retention rate was 55%, and despite the challenges and effects of Covid-19, the College's fall 2020 retention rate is 56% (Objective 2.1). Objective 2.2 is about refocusing recruitment and admissions efforts. Two special teams have been commissioned to help improve our enrollment numbers. The Spring Admissions Team was constructed to work directly with the Office of Recruitment and Admissions to help increase the number of students for spring enrollment in January 2021. The Retention Task Force is working to ensure that our currently enrolled students remain throughout this fall semester and return in the spring.

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership continues to play and implement activities to keep our students engaged. Virtual Bingo and Tiger Trivia Thursdays are examples of such activities (Objective 2.7). As for promoting the spiritual and physical health of our Voorhees Family (Objective 2.9), Chapel services are held every other Tuesday, and two dynamic young speakers/ministers have already blessed the hearts and souls of the listeners. The College is still in search of a Chaplain and Rector for the institution and St. Phillips Church. The Virtual Tiger Training Tuesday initiative helps to keep everyone fit, trim, and in shape.

D. SPRING 2020-Goal #3: Ensure Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness.

Objective 3.3: IT has installed a new alert system for the campus called Omni Alert. Objective 3.5, the Dorsey Building's renovations have been completed. This now houses the Student Support Services grant. Improvements to the College-owned properties (apartments) is currently underway and should be completed by Dec. 1st. Objective 3.6, Dominion has completed an assessment of the lighting across campus. New cameras are being installed and upgrades to the monitoring system for the Security Office is being made. Objective 3.8, adjustments have been made to the budget to ensure that it remains balanced. The audits conducted thus far have been positive. Objective 3.10, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness has relocated to the BTW Building and now reports to the Office of the President.

FALL 2020-Goal #3: Ensure Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness.

Building upgrades (Objective 3.5) continue to be made across the campus. The residence halls have undergone major upgrades in the lobby, TV room, and student living quarters. Dominion Energy has installed new lighting across the campus, and the newly installed cameras are assisting our safety officers in maintaining a safe and orderly campus (Objective 3.6). The US Department of Education informed the Financial Aid Office that records indicate that the College's cash balance is at an acceptable level. Additionally, the College also received a slight increase in Title III funding for this academic year (Objective 3.9).

E. SPRING 2020-Goal #4: Strengthen Resource Development.

Objective 4.2: The Pre-Alumni Council has increased its membership on campus; planning with the Golden Class of 1970, 10 Under 40, and 2020 Hall of Fame is underway; establishing new chapters (Columbus, GA) continues to be an objective. Objective 4.3, the president and choir have attended several Episcopal-related functions and activities since January; the Absalom Jones Feast took place on February 11, 2020. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was the (virtual) keynote speaker

for Founder's Day on April 7. Rev. Phil Jackson, from Trinity at Wall Street in New York, will be on campus March 16-18 to meet with the president, cabinet, and students. Objective 4.6, a set of new fundraising ideas are being investigated and the College has implemented a "pay via texting" fundraising initiative which was used at the February 11 Absalom Jones Feast. Objective 4.8, selected administrators attended a HBCU Partnership Summit in Aiken, SC at the Savannah River Site (SRS) based on the invitation of Congressman James Clyburn; the summit was held to ensure that the growing workforce at the SRS reflects diversity and strengthens partnerships with private entities.

FALL 2020-Goal #4: Strengthen Resource Development.

An articulation agreement, MOU, was signed between Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Voorhees College on September 23, 2020 (Objective 4.1). Our own Mr. Leonard Springs was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame on September 25, 2020 (Objective 4.2). The Episcopal Church's HBCU Committee invited Voorhees College to participate in its most recent board meeting (Objective 4.3). At that time, it was shared that both dioceses in the state were undergoing leadership changes. President Evans has been invited to speak at the 230th Annual Diocesan Convention for the Diocese of South Carolina on November 20-21, 2020. Objective 4.4 focuses on improving campus-wide and external communications. Articles about the College have been very positive, and Voorhees College is featured through the social media modes. The Radio Station, WVCD, was damaged during a storm earlier this semester, but it is operational again, and enhancements are being made to improve its reach and efficiency. Several fundraising initiatives (Objective 4.6) are planned to include the December 1, 2020 Tigers G.I.V.E. Campaign (Gladly Invest in Voorhees Education).

III. Recent Activities and Accomplishments

SPRING 2020

- The president was recognized as a 2020 Top HBCU Leader by the HBCU Campaign Fund (HCF).
- Voorhees College's Augusta Off-campus Instructional Site was reauthorized.
- Last year's SGA President, Christina Donovan, completed a Congressional Black Caucus Fellowship in Washington, DC.
- Founder Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was inducted into the SC Hall of Fame on February 7, 2020.

- Voorhees College was again ranked among the *U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges*; Voorhees ranked 55th among the Best Regional Colleges in the South and among the TOP 75 Best HBCUs.

FALL 2020

- Voorhees College Baseball Team was awarded the Team Academic Excellence Award from the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA).
- BlueCross BlueShield awarded the College a \$850,000 grant during this era of Covid-19.
- Since reestablishing in 2017 the two off-site instructional sites in Charleston and Augusta, 38 students have graduated from the sites.
- The College's first Virtual Fall Convocation was held on September 10, 2020.
- Emmanuel Lewis was our first Virtual Lyceum Speaker for the fall.
- U.S. News & World Report ranks Voorhees College at the 55th Best Regional College in the South on its 2021 list of institutions.

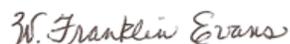
IV. Personnel Items at the Cabinet Level

- a. Ms. Phyllis Thompson was hired as the Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Dr. Prince Brown was hired as Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Development.

V. Action Items

The policy manual was revised and presented to the Board October 2019. Its approval at the October 2020 meeting is imperative.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Franklin Evans, Ph.D.
President & CEO