

Resolution 2025-4: Supporting the University of the South

WHEREAS, we, the members of this 142nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina gather in fellowship and faith; and

Whereas, the University of the South, familiarly known as Sewanee, is the only institution of higher learning owned and governed by dioceses of the Episcopal Church, and includes within its structure an accredited seminary, the School of Theology; and

Whereas, the integration of the College and the School of Theology allows for a unique relationship between undergraduate students and seminarians, fostering shared ministries through outreach, missions, worship, and pastoral care; and

Whereas, the Diocese of East Carolina and the University of the South have shared a special bond of leadership by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, who served as the 25th chancellor of the University from 2018-2023; and

Whereas, the University prayer petitions for “a never-failing succession of benefactors;” and

Whereas, the Church Support Committee of the Board of Trustees has reported that only six percent (6%) of parishes in the governing dioceses currently contribute to the University and has called upon the Board to work to increase that number to twenty-five percent (25%); and

Whereas, such support is an investment in the future of the Episcopal Church, strengthening the University’s capacity to educate and form both lay and ordained leaders and expand the Beloved Community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 142nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina affirms its unwavering commitment to the University of the South.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit to prayerfully encourage each parish to designate a portion of its annual outreach or missions budget to support the University of the South.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this 142nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina commends the University of the South for its ongoing contributions to the life of the Church and encourages its continued partnership with the Episcopal Church and Diocese of East Carolina to cultivate Episcopal ministry and leadership in eastern North Carolina and beyond.

Adopted the 14th day of November, 2025 by the 142nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Shurley Ray Weddle

Secretary of Convention