



**Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
February 25, 2023**

R-1 Memorial Resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church

Resolved: The following Memorial be submitted to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

To the Deputies and Bishops of The Episcopal Church assembled at the 81st General Convention:

The Honorable Reverend Doctor Canon Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr. was born in Jenkinsville, SC on April 15, 1926. He graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC in 1949 and along with nine other classmates enrolled at Philadelphia Divinity School, thereby integrating the institution. Graduating with a Master in Divinity degree in 1952, Joe was ordained to the diaconate in 1953 and to the priesthood in 1954.

After serving several congregations in the Carolinas as well as Chaplain at St. Augustine's, Joe accepted a call to serve as Rector of Grace Church in Norfolk, VA in 1963, a position he held until his retirement in 1993. Throughout his ministry, Joe was a faithful pastor and advocate for equality and civil rights.

Joe served the wider church as a deputy to General Convention from 1969-1983, as the President of the Union of Black Episcopalians from 1975-1977, and as a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Augustine's.

Joe was appointed to the School Board of the City of Norfolk in 1974 and then to the City Council in 1977, the first person of color to hold such a position since Reconstruction. Serving twenty years on the Council, ten as Vice Mayor, he was a champion for fair and affordable housing, access to education, and improved public transportation. He also led the drive to restore the historic Attucks Theater (known as "The Apollo Theater of the South") when it was slated for demolition.

In 2021, The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, designated Joe as Canon Theologian of our diocese, honoring "his lifelong voice for justice and inclusion... helping all of us to see more clearly the Way of Love." The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church has stated Joe was a colleague, friend, and mentor who helped to form him as a priest, bishop, and presiding bishop.

A recipient of numerous awards and degrees, Joe's advocacy for racial justice and reconciliation in the Episcopal Church will be felt for years to come. His work on behalf of the people of Norfolk has left an enduring legacy.

After a lifetime of faithful witness and service, including sixty-nine years in the ordained ministry, our Lord called Joe to his heavenly home on January 14, 2023. In honor of his remarkable life, we invite the members of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church to give thanks to God for The Honorable Reverend Doctor Canon Joseph Nathaniel Green Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

The Clergy and Delegates of the 131st Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.