



EPISCOPAL
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**New location announced for the consecration
of the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia**

[January 17, 2020] The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia announces a change of location for the February 1, 2020 consecration of the Rev. Susan Bunton Haynes as the 11th bishop of the Diocese. The service will take place at 11:00 am at Williamsburg Community Chapel, 3899 John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg. The Most Reverend Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church will serve as chief consecrator.

The decision to change the location from St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg arose out of concern and respect for the ministries and leadership of both the Catholic parish and the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Learning that its intended use of the building was causing dismay and distress, the Episcopal Diocese withdrew from its contract with St. Bede. As Bishop-Elect Haynes observed, “in the 8th chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul cautioned Christians to be careful about pursuing behavior that might cause problems for others within their community.”

In her letter to Bishop Knestout, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, and Monsignor Lehman, pastor of St. Bede, Bishop-Elect Haynes wrote, “I am writing to withdraw from our contract to use the lovely, holy space of St. Bede for my upcoming consecration as the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. We have so appreciated and admired your grace and courage in extending this hospitality and abiding by your invitation even under fire from those within your own flocks.”

The consecration service will be live streamed on the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia’s website [diosova.org] and video will be available afterward for on-demand viewing. All are welcome to attend the service and reception to follow. Tickets are not required. Ample parking is available at the consecration site, 3899 John Tyler Highway in Williamsburg.

The Episcopal Church in Southern Virginia includes approximately 30,000 Episcopalians in 101 congregations between the Dan River and the Eastern Shore. A diverse, Eucharistic community, its members are committed to the Gospel, collaborating for strength, innovating for growth, and equipping each other to live in the world as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia is part of The Episcopal Church, a province of the worldwide Anglican Communion.