**Sewanee: University of the South**

**Board of Trustees Report**

This was my first year to represent the Diocese of Atlanta as a member of the Sewanee: University of the South Board of Trustees and I definitely learned a lot! For example, did you know that Sewanee is the ONLY school solely owned and governed by the Episcopal Church? The Diocese of Atlanta is one of 28 Episcopal Diocese who own and govern Sewanee. That means YOU are an owner!

Sewanee is in the in the final year of the Stronger, Truer, Sewanee capital campaign. The priorities of the campaign include:

* The expansion of financial aid resources that help hold the line on the cost of education and a broad expansion of funding for career-shaping internships
* Enhancing Sewanee’s ability to attract, retain, and support a superb and nimble faculty and develop 21st-century programs which includes new facilities in which learning takes place, such as a learning commons in DuPont Library
* Resources for a wellness and recreation facility that provides a much-needed fitness center and moves health services to the center of campus, developing the University Avenue corridor and the Sewanee Village, creating new services and amenities for students, their families, visitors, and Sewanee residents
* Moving the School of Theology to its historic home on central campus, bolster financial aid to ensure that all graduates begin their ministries with no debt related to their seminary education, and new programs for laity (in addition to Education For Ministry and Invite, Welcome, Connect) at the Beecken Center to complement ordained ministry by building the church from the grassroots

As the School of Theology continues its plans to move onto central campus within the next several years, planners have reconsidered the use of the Bishop’s Common as its new site. Instead, they are now looking to choose a different, unoccupied location on central campus. According to Dean of the School of Theology, Neil Alexander, eight locations have been identified within a 5 – 10 minute walk from St. Luke’s Chapel, which will be used by the seminarians. The Truer, Stronger, Sewanee campaign has raised 95% of the overall goal. The School of Theology capital campaign is in need of an additional $3 million in order to fund the move back to central campus. As an owner of Sewanee, I hope you will join me in making a contribution at [www.sewanee.edu/stronger-truer](http://www.sewanee.edu/stronger-truer).

The class of 2022 includes 481 first-year students from 29 states, plus DC, Armed Forces in Europe, Armed Forces in the Pacific, and 8 foreign countries. There are 18 new degree-seeking international students as well as 5 US/dual citizens and 2 US citizens living abroad. In addition to the new first-year students, Sewanee welcomed 19 transfers to campus. Academically this class is one of the strongest ever to enroll. There are 1,696 total undergraduates enrolled this year with a student/faculty ratio of 10:1.

The School of Theology has 72 students in the residential degree programs, 12 in the non-degree programs, 78 in the Advanced Degree Program, and 5 unclassified students for a total of 167 students. In the residential programs, 15% are persons of color, 46% are female and 54% are male, 62% are married, and 40% of Episcopal students studying for ordination are from non-owning diocese.

The Board of Trustees met on October 11 and 12. During the two-day annual meeting, we heard a variety of reports on the new developments at Sewanee as well as exciting possibilities for the future. We also voted to expand the Board of Trustees to include 3 additional Bishops from non-owning diocese and 12 lay members without regard to membership in the Episcopal Church, degree from the University, or place of residence.

In addition to expanding the Board of Trustees, we elected a new Chancellor, which is particularly important because although Sewanee is geographically located in the Diocese of Tennessee, it is under the authority of the Chancellor. The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, was elected the 25th chancellor of the University of the South. Skirving succeeds the Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop of Florida, who served as chancellor from October 2012 through October 2018. Skirving, a native of Ontario, Canada, was ordained and consecrated as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina on November 8, 2014. He has been a member of Sewanee’s Board of Trustees since 2014 and the Board of Regents since 2017, and received an honorary degree from the University in 2015.

We are looking forward to a bright future under the leadership of Bishop Skirving! YSR!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of my fellow Trustees, George Williamson and Rev. Nikki Mathis,

Tammy E. Pallot