**WHEREAS**, on September 9, 2017, The Diocesan Executive Council (DEC) approved a Safeguarding God’s People Policy Manual in accordance with the model policies of The General Convention of the Episcopal Church in effect at that time which detailed policies and training requirements for clergy and laity;

**WHEREAS**, The General Convention and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church have provided for updates to the model policies over time and required all Diocese to conform to the updated model policies and to require parishes to do the same; and

**WHEREAS,** the model policies allow for local adaption as long as said adaptions are no less restrictive than the model policies; and

**WHEREAS**, DEC has not updated the Diocesan policy since September 9, 2017, although new model policies have been subsequently released; and

**WHEREAS,** two recent important updates to the model policies include a requirement for recertification every three years instead of five years, and changes to the adult to youth and children supervision ratios; and

**WHEREAS**, after discussing the model policies and the desire to make interim changes to the Safeguarding God’s People Policy Manual followed by a thorough and thoughtful revision to the manual taking into consideration the model policies adapted for local circumstances and in accordance with state law;

**Therefore, I hereby move the following:**

1. That the Bishop appoint a task force from DEC to review the model policies and state law, and produce an updated Safeguarding God’s People Policy Manual to be presented for discussion at the December DEC meeting;
2. That page 7 of the current Safeguarding God’s People Training Policy Manual be amended to require that Certification must be renewed every 3 years;
3. That the supervision ratios on pages fifteen and sixteen of the current Safeguarding God’s People Training Policy Manual be amended as follows:

Supervision

At any gathering of children or youth, there shall be at least two unrelated adults with one being age 25 or older, preferably reflecting the sex and gender identity of the participants.

Minimum ratios of adult to child/youth shall be in accordance with American Camp Association (ACA) guidelines as follows:

• 5 years & younger — 1 adult for each 5 overnight-participants and 1 adult for each 6 day-

 participants

• 6–8 years — 1:6 for overnight, and 1:8 for day

• 9–14 years — 1:8 for overnight and 1:10 for day

• 15–18 years — 1:10 for overnight and 1:12 for day

Additional adults can provide skills, mentorship, support, encouragement, spiritual guidance, and joy. When you have new leaders-in-training, the leadership teams should also have a reasonable number of experienced adult leaders to provide support.

Travel

Minimum ratios of adult to youth need to be greater due to the possibility of leaving an adult behind with a participant in the event of a medical emergency.

• 9–14 years — 1:5

• 15–18 years — 1:7

Regardless of group size, no group should travel with fewer than three adult chaperones.

Approved this 10th Day of September, 2022.

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Ms. Suzanne Hulst Clawson, Esq.

Standing Committee President

The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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Ms. Janet Rippy

Clerk of the Standing Committee

The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina