DIOCESE of CHRIST our HOPE

5574 Garden Village Way D300
Greensboro, NC 27410
adhope.org

Bishop Ordinary Synod Report 2026

Bishop Alan Hawkins

The Third Sunday after Trinity
November 7, 2026

My brothers and sisters of the Diocese of Christ Our Hope, greetings in the name of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word that comes to mind as we gather for this Synod is delight. The Apostle Paul writes, "we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well." These words recall a season of my ministry when delight marked our shared work. I shared a joy in ministry with those entrusted to my oversight, and our lives and service were marked by mutual affection.

At times, that delight can seem distant. Posturing, litigation, and disparaging speech can overshadow our common work in the Church. I remember the early days of the ACNA and our diocese, when hope and mutual honor seemed more abundant. Yet Paul's letter to the Thessalonians offers reason for renewed hope. He wrote to a young church facing hostility and hardship—the very circumstances that had forced Paul and Silas to leave. Even amid those difficulties, his words conveyed love and care. That same spirit should shape the ministry to those entrusted to us.

In that spirit, I want to share several reasons for delight in the life of our diocese.

1. Diocesan Council Leadership

I thank God for the labor of Dr. Jerald Walz, the outgoing chair of the Diocesan Council. Jerald has served faithfully as the chief Lay Leader in DCOH. I appreciate his zeal, care, and strategic thinking. I am equally excited to welcome Katherine Heidenthal to serve as the next vice chair of DCOH. Katherine has become an invaluable voice in DCOH. Congratulations to both of them.

2. Diocesan Staff

I thank God for our staff and their dedication to serving the people and churches of the diocese. We have worked to strengthen communication, collegiality, and our capacity to serve our ~50 churches. I am honored to serve alongside this team. Together, we pray weekly for our rectors and congregations, asking that they remain strong in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Diocesan Council

The lay and clergy members of the Diocesan Council give their time, often in the evenings, to the governance of the diocese. Their responsibility is to steward what has been entrusted to us. The Council's agenda must remain rooted in the needs and mission of our churches.

4. Deans of the Diocese

Our deans gather almost weekly for prayer, discernment, and discussion. Together, we identify next steps as we seek to serve faithfully the varied needs of our churches. I want to personally thank outgoing Dean Kevin Whitfield for his leadership, humility, deep affection, and thoughtfulness. It

has been an honor to have your kind, wise, and reasoned voice in the Deans. I also appreciate very much the rest of the deans who give above and beyond to the work of the Deaneries and their churches and leaders.

5. Episcopal Colleagues

It is a joy to serve alongside Quigg, our Suffragan Bishop, Steve, our very active Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Adam Andudu, our Bishop in Residence and dear brother in the Lord, and of course our outgoing Assisting Bishop Paul Donison, who will likely be elected to serve as the next Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast. We will miss Paul, but we celebrate the new season of ministry for him and Monika.

6. College of Presbyters, Deacons, and Laity

The last few years have marked tremendous growth for these groups. I want to recognize and thank Rev. Benji Davis for his service as chair of the College of Presbyters and Rev. Anna Friedrich for her leadership as chair of the College of Deacons. I also offer special thanks to Mr. John Zuhone for his work during this first year of the College of Laity. I am grateful for these friends and laborers.

7. Ministry Updates

Support for Rwanda. We are winding down a ten-year financial support structure for the Anglican Church of Rwanda. I recently attended the Investiture of Dr. Mannaseh Gahima, my dear friend, who is the recent elected Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Rwanda. I can say that the Province of Rwanda is on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ and the immense leadership from Archbishops Onesophore Rawaje, Archbishop Laurent Mbanda, and now Dr. Gahima.

Ministry Initiative for our Sudanese and South Sudanese Leaders. The growth of Sudanese and South Sudanese churches and leaders has continually encouraged me. Thanks to the leadership of (newly Awarded) Dr. Adam Andudu, it is time for our Diocese to make an official initiative of the Sudanese and South Sudanese Leaders and Churches.

The Rector Development Program. The Rector Development Program (RDP) provides a unique opportunity to support, encourage, and care for our brothers serving as vicars and rectors in this diocese. More than half of these pastors have come to Greensboro for prayer and refreshment. I remain committed to caring for our clergy, and we are expanding clergy care beyond the RDP.

Onboarding, Training, and Equipping. The diocese has begun expanding its online resources and developing additional training modules to equip and support our churches and leaders.

8. Vision, Mission, and Values

Over the past two years, I have worked with the above leadership groups to develop a new vision and mission statement for the diocese. In the coming season, I will return to these groups to discuss the values that will guide our shared life and ministry.

Vision: Seeking the Kingdom of God through the Great Commission, under the Great Commandment, and by the Great Tradition.

Mission: Serving the Local Church by cultivating Godly leaders, planting new churches, nurturing healthy deaneries, and launching new dioceses.

I especially want to thank Angela Kaye for her tireless work and her support of me and of you throughout these years. As I mentioned two Synods ago, I treasure these remaining years before we become empty nesters. I look forward to the time when she can join me for more diocesan events and episcopal visits.

All the very best to you,



Bishop Alan J. Hawkins
The Diocese of Christ Our Hope