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in the UNITED STATES

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Dear Friends,

November 2022

This year is proving to be an especially important one for Canterbury Cathedral.

After 21 years of incredibly fruitful service, Dean Robert Willis retired in May at the mandatory age of 75. He leaves behind a Cathedral greatly invigorated by the pattern of Christian hospitality he, and because of him, the whole cathedral community exemplified at every level.

His immediate successor, Interim Dean Jane Hedges, put this legacy to good use in receiving the gathered bishops of the Anglican Communion at the decennial Lambeth Conference. Once again, the Cathedral demonstrated its central importance as a gathering place for all Anglicans, where everyone has a place. As Dean Robert was fond of saying, "It belongs to us all equally." As such, it is perhaps the strongest symbolically unifying force we Anglicans have.

And then, perhaps as you've heard, this fall came the exciting news of the appointment of the Very Rev. David Montieth as the next dean. David comes from Leicester Cathedral, where he has led a creative outreach to the people of the diocese, making the Cathedral "a beating heart" of the city. As he has said about his new role at Canterbury, "There is much to steward and much to imagine new."

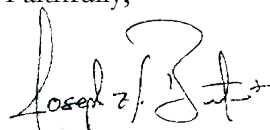
All this bodes well for the future as Canterbury moves beyond the pandemic closure to continue its steady witness as a kind of "morning star," not just for Anglicans, but for all people of faith. The seminarian program for instance—on hiatus during the pandemic—is set to resume next year, bringing new clergy leaders from around the globe to learn from one another, develop friendships, and be knit together in Christ within the wider Communion.

Yet even in the midst of these new beginnings, we are also mindful of two great losses this year, as two of our recent board chairs died: Bishop Peter Lee and Canon Matthew Corkern (*please see the reverse side of this letter for more*).

FOCCUS has continued to support Canterbury Cathedral throughout the last two years, in part to help provide its leadership with a solid foundation as we all move through these rapidly changing and unpredictable times. We are all grateful for the generosity that has made this sustained support possible, even in difficult times. So now is the time to renew your own commitment and affection for Canterbury with an annual gift as we look toward a future as yet undefined, but full of promise.

Blessings in your own life, and thank you for your support of the ministry of Canterbury. It belongs to us all, equally.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Joseph Britton  
Interim Chair

*(please see the reverse side of this letter for more)*

## IN MEMORIAM

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, retired bishop of Virginia, died this year on July 2, age 84. Peter was an avid friend and advocate for Canterbury Cathedral, and served an extended term as chair of the FOCCUS Board.



The Rev. Canon Matthew T. L. Corkern, known for his intrepid spirit of pilgrimage, led many trips to Canterbury and elsewhere as a parish priest, most recently as rector of Calvary Church, Summit, New Jersey. He had just taken on the role of board chair when he was taken ill, and he died on April 24, age 49.



The passion of each of these pastors of the church for the mission of Canterbury Cathedral made a huge impact on the work of the Friends. In their memory, the FOCCUS board sent an additional contribution of \$10,000 to the Cathedral.

**Their presence, leadership and enthusiasm are missed by us all.**