



February 4, 2026

Dear Friends,

I have had the enormous privilege of working closely with Ian Markham since 2007. He is an extraordinary leader, scholar, teacher and pastor, and he has become a cherished friend.

The Virginia and General seminaries have served The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion for more than two centuries. Both seminaries have been blessed with talented and accomplished leadership as they formed generations of clergy and lay leaders.

Ian Markham has been simultaneously a full member of each seminary's internal community and the face to the world of both. He is present in the seminary communities. He knows and is known by the members of each community. He is also visible, present, and well acquainted with leaders throughout the Church and the Communion.

One lens through which Ian's leadership tenure can be viewed is that of concrete accomplishments. Some accomplishments require effort and money. Others require effort and money, but also courage!

Examples of the first group are buildings, roads, and site improvements, expansions, or new construction completed during Ian's leadership. Employee compensation and benefits, student financial aid and services have been materially improved as well.

Examples of the latter group are the long-delayed disposition of the nearly 3,000-year-old Assyrian Reliefs which now reside in a renovated for purpose building where they can be displayed and made available to scholars; the multi-part Racial Justice Initiatives, one of which was to find and develop relationships with descendants of enslaved persons forced to labor at VTS, and to begin a program of financial reparations; and of course the historic affiliation between the Virginia and General seminaries.

The VTS and GTS communities look forward to enjoying our last two years with Ian and Lesley Markham. We will enjoy celebrating the accomplishments and expressing our gratitude for their time among us.

The VTS and GTS boards must also look to the future. The boards have appointed a Search Committee, and a search consulting firm has been engaged. The transition process will begin with a comprehensive listening process throughout the spring. From that listening, institutional and individual profiles will emerge that will offer our best thinking about institutional directions and priorities, as well as the ideal characteristics of the next GTS and VTS Dean and President.

More information about plans to celebrate and thank Ian Markham will be included in other communications. More information about the search and how to participate and offer input will follow shortly as well.

It has been my honor and a privilege to share important work with Ian Markham. I know I speak for all when I offer our profound gratitude for what he has contributed to theological education, to The Episcopal Church and to the Anglican Communion.

David Charlton, Chair
GTS and VTS Boards of Trustees