

**A Statement from the Bishops of New York and Long Island  
concerning the proposed lease arrangement between VTS/GTS and the  
School of Sacred Music  
March 22, 2024**

We proclaim a Gospel that recognizes everyone as a beloved child of God. Over the last generation The Episcopal Church has struggled towards full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons, including ordination to the diaconate, priesthood, and episcopate. We have made progress. We're not going back.

Together we oppose the lease arrangement between Virginia Theological Seminary/The General Theological Seminary and the School of Sacred Music. We are concerned by the lack of full acceptance of the LGBTQ stance of its founders and the lack of transparency in its funding.

We recognize the difficult financial situation of VTS/GTS with the General Seminary campus. We are also making difficult decisions about the future use of sacred spaces. It's important to make decisions that align with our mission and values. Human dignity is not negotiable.

We do sponsor students at both GTS/VTS and are hopeful for continued program partnerships between our Dioceses and the seminary in the years ahead.



Bishop of New York



The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano  
Bishop of Long Island



The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin  
Bishop Suffragan of New York



**The Rt. Rev. GERALYN WOLF**  
**Assistant Bishop of Long Island**



The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool  
Bishop Assistant of New York



The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey  
Assisting Bishop of Long Island



The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin  
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