

**The One Hundred Thirty-sixth Council  
of the Diocese of the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic  
Report of the Bishop Ordinary  
November 3, 2016**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The following report is submitted as a summary of my principal activities as Bishop Ordinary, October 2015 through September 2016. I am very grateful for the support of Bishop Chuck Gillin and Dr. Jonathan Riches in the administration of the Diocese and the Seminary. They are of invaluable help to me, along with Canon William Jenkins and the deans of the convocations. I also appreciate the dedicated service of Mrs. Susan France, the Rev. Gerald McLynn, and Mr. Greg Wright, who have worked so hard in preparation for this Council.

**I. Regular Episcopal Visits** (1 Baptism; 43 Confirmations)

- Trinity XIX, October 11, 2015 – **Emmanuel**, Somerville  
0 confirmations
- Trinity XXIV, November 15, 2015 – **Covenant Chapel**, Basking Ridge.  
0 confirmations.
- Sunday before Advent, November 22, 2015 – **Redeemer**, Jersey City.  
6 confirmations.
- Advent I, November 29, 2015 – **Holy Trinity**, Bronx.  
5 confirmations
- Advent II, December 6, 2015 – **Faith Church**, Baltimore  
2 confirmations
- Easter I, April 3, 2016 – **Atonement Church**, Philadelphia  
0 confirmations, 1 baptism. On this day, I baptized Jude Holloway, son of the Rev. Jason and Ebony Holloway.
- Easter II, April 10, 2016 – **St. John's by the Sea**, Ventnor  
0 confirmations
- Trinity II, June 5, 2016 – **St. Mary's**, Bronx.  
8 confirmations.
- Trinity III, June 12, 2016 – **St. Stephen's**, Eldersburg.  
5 confirmations.
- Trinity VII, July 10, 2016 – **Jesus the Good Shepherd**, Bronx  
0 confirmations
- Trinity IX, July 24, 2016 – **Grace Church**, Scranton.  
7 confirmations.
- Trinity XVII, September 17, 2016 – **St. George's**, Hamilton.  
2 confirmations.
- Trinity XVIII – **Grace Church**, Collingdale.  
5 confirmations
- St. Michael's Day, September 29, 2016 – **St. Mark's**, Rydal  
3 confirmations

## **II. Weddings & Funerals**

**Memorial Service for Mrs. Karen Baird.** On Friday, September 11, 2015, I attended the memorial service for Mrs. Karen Baird. She was the wife of the Rev. Richard Baird (St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman), and had served in many capacities at Messiah Church and St. Mark's. The service was held at Church of the Atonement, Philadelphia.

**Funeral for Mrs. Marianne Morse.** On Saturday, December 19, 2015, I participated in the funeral service for Mrs. Marianne Morse, the wife of the Rt. Rev. Daniel R. Morse (Diocese of the Central States). The service was held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Nashville, TN.

**Memorial Service for Mrs. Ethelyn Watson.** On Saturday, March 12, 2016, I attended the memorial service for Mrs. Ethelyn Watson, wife of the late Rev. Joseph Watson. The Watsons served as missionaries to India, as well as ministered in several of the parishes in our diocese. The service was held at Wiley Church, Marlton, NJ.

**Memorial Service for Dr. David Hamarich.** On Ascension Day, May 5, 2016, I attended the memorial service for Dr. David Hamarich. David was the husband of Barbara Hamarich, who is a trustee of the Diocese. David was also the director of Mustard Seed Farm camp for many years, and attended St. Mark's, Rydal, and St. Patrick's Fellowship, Norristown. The Rev. Russell Buchanan conducted the service at the Warker-Troutman Funeral Home, Pottstown, PA.

**Funeral Service for Donna March.** On Thursday, May 12, 2016, I presided at the funeral service for Donna March, wife of the Rev. Donald March. I was assisted by Bishop Gillin, and the Rev. Paul Schenck read the Epistle. The service was held at St. Michael's Church, Enola.

**Funeral Service for Suzie Fields.** On Monday, May 16, 2016, I participated in the funeral service for Mrs. Suzie Fields. Mrs. Fields was a founding member of Messiah Church, Philadelphia. The Rev. Chiron Thompson presided at the service at Church of the Atonement, Philadelphia and also was assisted by the Rev. Richard Baird.

**Funeral for Mrs. Irene Alcorn.** On Tuesday, June 7, 2016, I attended the funeral service for Mrs. Irene Alcorn, a long-time member of St. Paul's, Oreland. The service was held at St. Paul's, with the Rev. John Medvick, rector, presiding.

**Memorial Service for LeRoy Benner.** On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I attended the memorial service for Mr. LeRoy Benner, father of the Rev. Cedric Benner. The service was held at Souderton Mennonite Retirement Home, Souderton, Pennsylvania.

## **III. Other Activities**

**St. John's, Huntingdon Valley.** On Sunday, October 25, 2015, I was the guest preacher at St. John's Church. This was done at the request of the Rev. Mark Rudolph. I also taught the adult Sunday School class, on the topic of the Anglican form of church polity.

**St. Mark's Fellows:** I have been meeting quarterly with the seminary students and postulants who are serving at St. Mark's, Rydal, and who are participating in the St. Mark's Fellows program.

**Diocesan Council:** I presided at the sessions of Diocesan Council, held at St. Paul's, Oreland, on November 5-6, 2015. The Rev. Stephen Tighe led the teaching

session on mentoring youth. The Rt. Rev. William Murdoch (Diocese of New England, ACNA) was our guest. This year's council will be held at St. Stephen's, Eldersburg, MD.

**Diocese of New England (ACNA).** At the invitation of the Rt. Rev. William Murdoch, I attended the sessions of the synod of the Diocese of New England.

**Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA).** At the invitation of the Rt. Rev. Amos Fagbamiye, I participated in the ordination service, hosted by St. Alban's, New York, on Sunday, December 13, 2015. I attended the CANA East synod in Wayne, PA and will be preaching at the CANA West synod in Indianapolis, IN, on July 15, 2016. CANA is a jurisdiction within the ACNA, similar to the REC in that respect.

**ACNA Summit and March for Life.** On January 21-22, 2015, I attended the Summit for Life in Washington, DC, sponsored by Anglicans for Life. Sadly, the ACNA participation in the March for Life, scheduled for the next day, was cancelled due to a snow storm.

**Candlemas at St. Mark's, Rydal.** On Tuesday, February 2, 2016, I participated in Morning Prayer with the children of St. Mark's Classical Christian Academy, Rydal. The children presented the candles they had made for use in the church, throughout the year.

**ENGAGE Seminar.** On Saturday, March 5, 2015, I attended the Engage Seminar, hosted by Grace Church, Collingdale. This was a Diocesan event, arising from the teaching session at Diocesan Council, last November. The seminar was conducted by the Rev. Stephen Tighe and provided practical training for mentoring youth in local parish. It was well attended; however, many of our churches did not participate. I intend to schedule another session in the future.

**Women's Day.** I attended the annual Women's Day conference, held at St. Paul's, Oreland, on Friday, May 6, 2016. Mrs. Sora Colvin, missionary to the Philippines and Indonesia was the conference speaker.

**Philadelphia Shepherds' Roundtable:** On June 20, 2016, I attended a meeting of the Shepherd's Roundtable at the American Bible Society offices in center-city Philadelphia. The roundtable is a time of fellowship and discussion among church leaders in the Philadelphia area. Its purpose is to foster discussion and cooperation between various evangelical denominations.

**Atonement Church Vacation Bible School:** I was a teacher for one of the groups, during Vacation Bible School at Church of Atonement, June 27-July 1, 2016.

**CANA Diocese of the Trinity:** On July 14, 2016, I was the preacher at the opening service of Holy Communion for the annual synod of the Convocations of Anglicans in North America (CANA), Diocese of the Trinity. The service was held at All Saints Church, Hyattsville, Maryland.

**St. Mark's, Rydal.** On Sunday, July 31, 2016, I preached at St. Mark's, Rydal, and brought with me the Rev. Earnest Nadeem, an Anglican priest from the Diocese of Sri Lanka. Rev. Nadeem gave a presentation about Pakistan during a special forum, after the service.

**Diocese of Eastern Canada (St. George's, Hamilton) –** On September 17, 2016, I presided at the annual synod of the Diocese of Eastern Canada. The diocese comes under the episcopal oversight of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

**Clergy Convocation (RE Seminary) –** Due to the illness of Dean Walter Hawkins, I have been leading the quarterly Philadelphia area clergy convocations.

#### **IV. Reformed Episcopal Seminary**

##### **Administration & Teaching.**

We strive to continue to raise the Seminary's profile. To that end, we have had visits from both Bishop Eric Menees of the Diocese of San Joaquin and Bishop Jack Iker of the Diocese of Fort Worth. While we have students from several Anglican jurisdictions and have received donations from bishops and churches in the wider Anglican church that are not part of the Reformed Episcopal Church, jurisdictions that are partnering with us by sending students to us in one form or another have yet to begin supporting the Seminary financially. The need for scholarship funding is critical. Students and churches appreciate our low cost model and more well-known seminaries are adopting full scholarship programs, most of which are funded. While we have had donations to the scholarship fund in the past, most recently all that we have received is the \$600 from St. Alban's, the First Reformed Episcopal Church, to establish a named partial scholarship. It would be wise to raise at least \$72,000 a year in scholarship funding. This is the equivalent of 10 full-tuition scholarships. We are giving out over \$100,000 in scholarship aid.

I continue to serve as President and Chancellor of the Seminary and Associate Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature. I taught an intensive course of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, August 8-12, 2016. This quarter I am teaching Hermeneutics, Greek Exegesis and Homiletics-Liturgics Practicum. Twelve new students began the program of study at the Seminary, this 2016-17 academic year.

We are preparing for a site visit by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the spring of 2018. This involves a new self-study process, which must be submitted to the accrediting association, prior to their visit.

**Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors met on Friday, October 30, 2015; Friday, February 5, 2016; Friday, May 20, 2016 and Friday, October 28, 2016. Members of the Trustees are invited to attend. Our new board chairman, the Rev. Dr. William Miller is a recently retired associate with the ATS, and he brings a wealth of knowledge about the administration of theological schools and seminaries. He is working hard at posturing the seminary to be the best position for growth, improvement and raising additional funds.

**Audit.** The 2015 audit for Reformed Episcopal Seminary was conducted by BBD Associates and has been distributed to the Trustees and Board of Directors via email. The audit is required by the Association of Theological Schools for accreditation purposes and the Federal government for Title IV acceptance, so that students may take advantage of student loans and loan deferrals. The audit process is rigorous and sets a high standard of financial accountability.

**Kuehner Lecture:** The Rev. Dr. Robert Emberger, Director of the Whosoever Gospel Mission and alumnus of the Seminary, was the speaker at our annual lecture series. I attended the sessions and presided at Morning Prayer.

**Friends of Reformed Episcopal Seminary (FORES).** I attended the FORES picnic for the Seminary community on Saturday, September 20, 2014. I also participated in the annual FORES banquet held at Blue Bell Country Club on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The Rev. Alan Crippen, director of the John Jay Institute and RES Board member was the speaker. The contributions from the day totaled \$5,000.

**PhD Dissertation.** After 17 years, I have finally finished the requirements for being awarded the PhD from Westminster Theological Seminary. I sustained the dissertation defense on Friday, April 29, 2016 and graduated on Thursday, May 26, 2016.

#### **V. Pastoral Connections and Vacancies**

**A. St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia.** Services and pastoral care at St. Luke's and Bishop Hoffman Church have been provided by the Rev. Barton Craig, the Rev. Richard Baird and the Rev. Frank Spadafora. Bishop Gillin and I alternate in attendance of Vestry meetings on a quarterly basis. Revs. Craig and Baird have retired from service at the parish. August 28, 2016, I attended the special luncheon honoring the Rev. Barton Craig and the Rev. Rick Baird. The Rev. Frank Spadafora will provide supply pastoral care, until January 1, 2017.

**B. Bishop Cummins Church, Catonsville.** On Sunday, October 18, 2015, I installed the Rev. Cedric Benner as rector of Bishop Cummins Church.

**C. St. John's by the Sea.** The Rev. Ronald Bretherick has announced his retirement, as rector of the parish, effective December 31, 2016. The Rev. Frank Spadafora has been appointed interim rector, effective January 1, 2017.

#### **VI. Other Parochial Matters**

**Church Planting.** In addition to the work, mentioned above, we continue to explore church planting efforts. The Rev. Russ Buchanan continues to work with St. Patrick's Fellowship, Norristown; and I continue to explore outreach in Philadelphia.

**St. Michael's, Enola.** On Friday, April 22, 2016, Bishop Gillin, Canon Jenkins and I had a meeting at St. Michael's, Enola, with the Rev. Donald March, vicar. This parish has been struggling for some time, and it has been determined that the membership and financial stability of the parish is no longer tenable. Last May, the Standing Committee closed the parish, and committed the disposal of the assets to the Vestry appointed by the Bishop Ordinary. The church property was sold on October 3, 2016. After satisfying a mortgage from the Looney-Hoffman Fund, the net proceeds from the sale were approximately \$34,700.

**Atonement Church, Philadelphia.** With the resignation of Walter Hawkins, and the inability of the parish to support the salary of a full-time vicar, I have taken direct oversight of the parish. The Rev. Jason Holloway serves as pastor of the church and deals with much of the day to day matters. The Rev. Thomas Guerra, a deacon studying at RES, has assisted in the parish also. When I am not on an episcopal visit, my time is spent at Atonement. We have a number of initiatives going, which seem to indicate a positive future for the parish.

#### **VII. Postulants for Holy Orders**

Aaron Andrade (Good Shepherd, E. Bridgewater)

Vic Broberg (Emmanuel, Pipersville)

Nicholas Ziegenhagen (St. Mark's, Rydal)

#### **VIII. Canonical Examinations**

**Lawrence Spears** (Grace, Collingdale): On August 25, 2015, Lawrence Spears took the written examination for ordination to the diaconate. The oral interview was held

on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. The examiners were the the Rev. Canon Jonathan Riches, the Very Rev. Walter Hawkins, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick and I. The examination was sustained.

**Shawn Riley** (Grace Church, Collingdale). On August 26, 2015, Monday, October 26, 2015, Shawn Riley took the written examination for the diaconate. The oral interview was held on Monday, October 26, 2015. The examiners were the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches, the Very Rev. Walter Hawkins, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, the Rev. Cedric Benner and I. The examination was sustained.

**Ricky McCarl** (Emmanuel, Pipersville). On February 3, 2016, Ricky McCarl took the written examination for ordination to the diaconate. The oral interview was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. The examiners were the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick and I. The examination was sustained.

**William “Billy” Jenkins** (Faith Church, Baltimore). On January 1, 2016, William “Billy” Jenkins took the written examination for ordination to the diaconate. The oral interview was held on Thursday, February 11, 2016. The examiners were the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches, the Rev. Cedric Benner and I. The examination was sustained.

**William Vowles** (St. Stephen’s, Eldersburg). On Tuesday, April 26, 2016, the Rev. William Vowles took the written examination for ordination to the presbyterate. The oral interview was held on May 9, 2016. The examiners were the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, the Very Rev. Eric Jorgensen and I. The examination was sustained.

#### **IX. Ordinations/Receptions/Transfers**

**Shawn Riley and Lawrence Spears** (Grace, Collingdale): On Saturday, February 20, 2016, I ordained Shawn Riley and Lawrence Spears to the diaconate at service held at Grace Church, Collingdale. The Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick presented the candidates; Mr. Jack Ross was the litanist; the Rt. Rev. R. Charles Gillin was the preacher.

**Ricky McCarl** (Emmanuel, Pipersville). Ricky McCarl was ordained deacon at Grace Church, Collingdale on June 3, 2016. He was presented by the Rev. William Garrison.

**William “Billy” Jenkins** (Faith Church, Baltimore). William “Billy” Jenkins was ordained deacon, July 2, 2016, at Faith Church, Baltimore. He was presented by the Rev. Canon William Jenkins, Sr., who also was the preacher.

**William Vowles** (St. Stephen’s, Eldersburg). William Vowles was ordained to the presbyterate on July 17, 2016. He was presented by the Very Rev. Eric Jorgensen, who also was the preacher.

**William Miller** (Reformed Episcopal Seminary). I received letters dimissory from the Rt. Rev. Alberto Morales, Diocese of Quincy, transferring the Rev. Dr. William Miller to our Diocese. Dr. Miller is the chairman of the Board of Reformed Episcopal Seminary.

#### **X. Bishop’s Youth Advisory Group (BYAG)**

The BYAG continues to meet on a monthly basis, and continues to support the efforts of parishes with the work of reaching and retaining youth and young adults in our Diocese. Currently, the BYAG’s primary attention is being given to strengthening the youth camping ministry and the youth ministry of St. Mark’s parish, which has been

adopted by the committee as a test project. Other avenues of assistance to parishes are being explored.

#### **XI. General Council Activities**

**General Council Committees.** I attended the conference call meetings, as well as the semi-annual meeting of the bishops and other committees of the General Council on April 14-15, 2016 in Katy, Texas.

#### **XII. Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).**

**Holy Orders Task Force.** I continue to serve as the chair of the Holy Orders Task Force. I attended the meeting held on October 1-2, 2015; February 25-26, 2016 in Bedford, Texas; and September 21-23, 2016 in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. We anticipate that the work of the Task Force will be concluded in January 2017.

**College of Bishops.** I attended the meeting of the College of Bishops in Melbourne, Florida, January 4-8, 2015, and in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, June 23-24, 2016.

#### **XIII. Diocesan Financial Matters**

The Trustees are keenly aware of the financial challenges facing the Seminary and the Diocese. Because of the past entanglement between the two agencies, I have appointed a special committee to explore their relationship and to make some possible recommendations for a better structural arrangement. At its last meeting, the committee urged both the Seminary and Diocese to delineate or develop their policies in order to communicate their understanding of what their responsibilities and sphere of operation are. The Seminary board has done so, and we are working on similar action by the Diocese. I will be appointing some Trustee members to coordinate this work on behalf of the Trustees. Also, a three day retreat is scheduled (November 17-19, 2016) for a committee of the Trustees to do strategic planning, guided by a professional strategic planner. After the special committee receives this information, it will pick up its work again.

#### **XIV. Bishop's Book of Appreciation additions (October 2015 - October 2016)**

**Naomi Lloyd** – New Redeemer Church, Jersey City  
**Richard Chandler** – New Redeemer Church, Jersey City  
**Carol Riches** – Covenant Chapel, Basking Ridge  
**Sigrid Falt** – Covenant Chapel, Basking Ridge  
**Barbara Riches** – Emmanuel, Pipersville  
**David Loughran** – St. George's Church, Hamilton  
**Brian Fearnley** – St. George's Church, Hamilton  
**Cheryl Komline** – Covenant Chapel, Basking Ridge  
**Theresa Davison** – Covenant Chapel, Basking Ridge

#### **XV. Canonical Appointments**

The Rev. Canon William Jenkins (Canon to the Ordinary)  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan Riches (Canon Theologian)  
The Very Rev. Eduardo Andrade (Dean, New England)

The Very Rev. Dr. Eric Jorgensen (Dean, Maryland)  
*Vacant* (Dean, Pennsylvania & Delaware)  
The Very Rev. Gregory Miller (Dean, New Jersey)  
The Very Rev. Belgrave Pelle (Dean, New York)

**XV. Items for Action**

Council Offerings

Thursday: **Anglican Relief and Development Fund: Flood Relief in South Carolina.** I am requesting that Thursday's offering from the service of Holy Communion be designated as "alms" and forwarded to the ARDF for relief to those affected by hurricanes and floods.

Friday: **REC Board of Foreign Missions.** I am requesting that Friday's offering at Morning Prayer be dedicated to the Reformed Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions' General Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks