

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

To the One Hundred Thirty-sixth Council  
of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic  
of the Reformed Episcopal Church

Dear Brethren,

The Board of Examining Chaplains this past year consisted of the Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks, the Rev. Michael D. Fitzpatrick, The Very Rev. Walter L. Hawkins, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan S. Riches. The Adjunct members included the Rev. Cedric R. Benner, Deaconess Ruth Cresswell, and the Very Rev. John R. Smith.

The Board serves as the advisor to the bishop with regards to the examination process for candidates for ordination or transfer to the offices of permanent deacon, transitional deacon, and presbyter, as well as for candidates for the office of deaconess. We continue to work closely with Reformed Episcopal Seminary to ensure that the academic requirements for the candidates for each of these offices are met in the Licentiate and Master of Divinity programs. The Masters of Divinity program at Reformed Episcopal Seminary is the normative path for preparation for Ordination in this Diocese. Those who have not completed their education at Reformed Episcopal Seminary are required to pursue at least a Certificate in Anglican Studies at the Seminary. Situations are discussed on a case by case basis based on the standard requirement for each office in accordance with the canons.

In general candidates are given a study guide and when they are ready and schedule a time for a proctored exam in which they have access to nothing but a laptop and write on examination questions assigned by the committee. The Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan S. Riches are the members of the committee that select these exam questions and make arrangements for the administration of the written exams. The written exam is read by all of the examining chaplains who give comments to each other or through the Bishop. An oral exam is then scheduled with usually at least three examining chaplains participating.

During this Diocesan year five examinations were conducted:

1. On Wednesday, October 14, 2015, Lawrence Spears was examined for ordination to the diaconate. The examiners were the Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, the Very Rev. Walter Hawkins, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan Riches. The examination was sustained.
2. On Monday, October 26, 2015, Shawn Riley was examined for ordination to the diaconate. The examiners were the Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks, the Rev. Michael D.

Fitzpatrick, the Very Rev. Walter Hawkins, the Rev. Cedric Benner, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan S. Riches. The examination was sustained.

3. On Tuesday, February 11, 2016, Billy Jenkins was examined for ordination to the diaconate. The examiners were the Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks, the Rev. Cedric Benner, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan S. Riches. The examination was sustained.
4. On Wednesday, March 9, 2016, Ricky McCarl was examined for ordination to the diaconate. The examiners were the Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan Riches. The examination was sustained.
5. On Monday May 9, 2016, William Vowles was examined for ordination to the presbyterate. The examiners were the Rt. Rev. Dr. David L. Hicks, the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, the Very Rev. Eric Jorgensen, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan Riches. The examination was sustained.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan S. Riches  
Chairman