

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

To the One Hundredth and Thirty First Council
Of the Diocese of the North-East and Mid-Atlantic
Of the Reformed Episcopal Church

Dear Brethren:

Our emphasis in the past year has been on improving the "web presence" of the Diocese, both through our own website at <http://www.rec-nema.org> and by encouraging our parishes to create or develop their own websites. Greg Wright, the Diocesan IT Administrator, has assumed full-time responsibilities for updating the Diocesan website and has been posting or updating items weekly as available. A special Easter page was created to highlight special events in our parishes, with links to parish websites. We hope to do this again as the Advent/Christmas season approaches later in November. As the activity level and number of links increases, our Google rankings will also increase, making search for our churches and activities appear more prominently to those interested in finding out about us.

Of our thirty parishes, twenty started the year with some kind of self-managed website. Of those, three have been refreshed and one has dropped off the net in the last year. Two new ones have been added, so we still have nine parishes without websites. A template has been developed based on the WordPress content management system, and we will be helping parishes without sites to set up a basic site in the next few months. As always, updating content is the primary means of keeping a site interesting to visitors, so we encourage all parishes to post news and updates regularly as well as sending updates (especially photos!) to the Diocese Office for inclusion in the diocese website. If we receive enough news we may also be able to revive the Diocesan Newsletter.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for this committee please advise us via an email to: greg.wright@reseminary.edu, or write or call the Diocesan Office at the Seminary in Blue Bell, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Wright, Chairman