

Report of the Provost and Dean of Reformed Episcopal Seminary  
To the 131<sup>st</sup> Council of the Diocese of the NE and Mid-Atlantic of the REC

Dear Brethren:

2010 and 2011 have been very active years for your Seminary.

Major achievements include:

1. Replacement and resetting of the windows to improve air circulation and insulation.
2. Upgrades to the Library Software and collection -- The library catalog can now be accessed online.
3. Approval of our candidate status for full accreditation and completion of the preliminary self-study to be presented to ATS. This process has involved virtually every member of the Seminary family. We are hopeful that by the time we meet in 2012 we will be able to report our full accreditation.
4. Participation in the Anglican Seminary Task Force for the ACNA. The purpose of the Task Force was to present the College of Bishops with standards Anglican Seminaries must meet in order to be approved by the ACNA. I was assisted in this process by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches and am pleased to report that the standards developed were embraced by the College of Bishops of the ACNA, the Theological Commission of the REC and our own Seminary. In the process a new collegiality has been developed with other orthodox Anglican Seminaries and Seminaries offering Anglican Track programs.
5. In conjunction with the Diocese the Seminary hired Mr. Gregory Wright, our former Missionary with Arab World Ministries, to provide Information Technology services to the Seminary and the Diocese. The improvements and progress Greg has made on behalf of the Seminary are too numerous to mention.

I am also pleased to report that enrollment at RES is on the rise. In September of 2011 we enrolled the largest incoming class in recent memory. The student body now consists of 18 full-time students and 12 part-time students (including all programs).

The Seminary also works in cooperation with the Bishop and the Examining Chaplains to offer a program for Licentiate in Diaconal Ministry. This program is designed to help prepare those studying for the permanent diaconate with course work and classes meeting around the Ember days.

Over the course of the 2010 and 2011, we have been pleased to bring on board as lecturers Mr. William Jenkins, Jr., Rev. Walter Hawkins, and Rev. Charles Camlin. Rev. Justin Forsberg is assisting in language studies.

On a sad note we report the full retirement of the Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Headman from the Seminary Faculty. Dr. Headman served as President of the Seminary during our years of crisis and was highly instrumental in seeing us through that time and into our current location. Following his retirement from the presidency of the Seminary, Dr. Headman continued to support RES by teaching classes in New Testament studies. We are truly thankful to our Lord for his many contributions. His presence is missed.

I would be remiss if I did not offer thanks for and to all those who serve RES in so many ways. Every member of the faculty and administration serves faithfully and at great personal sacrifice. None are compensated anywhere near the level their skills would demand elsewhere. Still they show up day after day and give their all because they love our Lord, they love the students and they love what RES stands for. I count myself highly blessed to be among their number. Many in our nation have made it a habit to thank those who serve in our military for their service. I would ask you to do the same for those who serve in your Seminary. They are part of the front line in our spiritual war.

If there is one area in which we have failed to make much progress, it is in our financial strength. The current economic conditions have affected all of us. Though we remain stronger than we were for many years, we have still not succeeded in generating the contribution support needed to meet the ongoing costs of training those studying for the ministry. To meet that goal we are praying for your support. You can help by making the Seminary an item of support in your parish budget. We are your missionaries to the world of pastoral training. You can help by making the Seminary a priority in your personal giving. You can help by encouraging others to give to RES. Every gift, large or small, is important to this vital work of our Diocese.

Finally, and most importantly, we covet your prayers. Pray that in a world of increasingly liberal theology, we will remain true to the Word of God. Pray that our Lord will continue to raise up those who desire that faithful training. Pray that our graduates will all be "*ambitious to be well pleasing to our Lord.*"

RESpectfully submitted

The Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud

Provost and Dean