REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND NURTURE

To the One Hundred Forty-Sixth Council of the Diocese of the
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The primary function of this committee has been to sponsor a retreat for the active and retired clergy and their wives serving in this diocese. The retreat has also welcomed postulants as well. The committee met twice by Zoom to plan the event, and invitations and retreat forms were sent by email to clergy throughout the diocese. Many follow-up emails and texts went out as well.

The retreat for 2026 took place February 5th through the 7th at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA. We opened Thursday evening with a message on the theme of "The Diocese as Community," calling us to see ourselves not as a loose collection of independent parishes but as one body under our bishop. On Friday morning, Jonathan Riches shared a message on Family Prayer. Friday evening, Bishop Bill shared his vision for our diocese to grow together as a body, and we spent time in prayer for one another and for the specific needs of one another's churches.

We are grateful to those whose labor made this retreat the success it was. Jonathan Riches gave generously of his time and insight in his message on Family Prayer. Stephanie Blitz and Sarah Benner led our fellowship times, giving us the chance to know one another better outside of our teaching sessions. Lynette McCarl did a wonderful work researching and promoting the weekend, which contributed greatly to its success. And we thank Bishop Bill for his continued vision and shepherding of this gathering, which remains a gift to the clergy and wives of this diocese.

The next retreat will be held February 4th through the 6th, 2027, again at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA. We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Robert Garrett and his wife, Kim, as our guest speakers. Robert is a graduate of Reformed Episcopal Seminary and currently serves as Lead Pastor of Christ Chapel in McMinnville, Tennessee, after pastoring in Chester County for over thirty years. In 2005, he and Kim founded Christian Call, a ministry "to educate the contemporary church in the ancient faith of the early church," and they bring a deep love for Anglican faith and practice to their ministry together. We look forward to a weekend of worship, teaching, and renewal under their leadership, and we encourage every parish in the diocese to send its clergy and their wives to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Michael Blitz