

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

TO THE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THIRD COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC OF THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Brethren:

During this year meetings of the Standing Committee were held on May 18, 2023, and October 12, 2023.

The activities of the Rt. Rev R. Charles Gillin, Bishop Ordinary, and the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr., Bishop Co-Adjutor, including Episcopal visits, confirmations and other functions can be found in detail in their reports presented to this Council.

Postulants

Joshua Devers (St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD)
Rick Wilson (Grace Church, Havre-de-Grace, MD)
Tom Davison (Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ)
Timothy Meadows (St. Alban's Church – New York, NY)
Norris Gadsden (New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ)
David Szomor (St. Mark's Church- Rydal, PA)
Benjamin Pearce (St. Mark's- Rydal, PA)
Matthew Trail (St. Stephen's Church- Eldersburg, MD)

CANONICAL EXAMINATIONS/RECEPTIONS/TRANSFERS

Ordinations

On November 2, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., Bishop Gillin ordained Mr. Jared Lovell, Deacon, at Grace Reformed Episcopal Church, Scranton, PA. The ordinand was presented by the Rev. Ricky McCarl who also served as a Litanist in addition to the Rev. Michael D. Blitz. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. William G. Garrison, Jr.

Ordination Exams

Mr. **Stephen Atchison** was examined for Deacons orders on January 24, 2023, in Havertown, PA. His rector, Archdeacon Jon Abboud, hosted the meeting in his home and was present with the Examining Chaplains and Bishop-Coadjutor Elect William Jenkins for the meeting. Candidate Atchison was approved for ordination pending successful report backs. His responsibilities were fulfilled and his ordination to the diaconate occurred on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 4:00pm at St. Matthew's R.E. Church in Havertown, PA. The ordinand was presented by the Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud. The Rev. Rod Lee served as Litanist. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Justin M. Forsberg.

The Standing Committee concurred with the action of ordaining Mr. Stephen Atchison as deacon.

Mr. **Kevin Murphy** was examined for Deacons orders on July 16, 2023, in Rydal, PA. Bishop William Jenkins joined the Examining Chaplains for the meeting. Candidate Murphy was approved for ordination pending successful report backs. His responsibilities were fulfilled and his ordination to the diaconate occurred on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 1:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, PA.

Transfers

On July 2, 2022, Bp. Gillin issued, at his request, a Letter Dimissory on behalf of the Rev. Dcn. Thomas V. Thomas to the Diocese of the Living Word overseen by the Rt. Rev. Julian Dobbs.

On April 13, 2023, Bp. Gillin issued a Letter Dimissory, upon request, on behalf of the Rev. Tait Deems to the Reformed Episcopal Diocese of Mid-America.

On May 25, 2023, Bp. Gillin issued, at his request, a Letter Dimissory on behalf of the Rev. Aaron T. Cappucci to the Diocese of Ft. Worth overseen by the Rt. Rev. Ryan Reed.

On August 15, 2023, Bp. Gillin issued a Letter Dimissory, at his request, on behalf of the Rev. Dr. David N. Greenwood to the Anglican Diocese of the South overseen by the Most Rev. Foley Beach.

On September 9, 2023, Bp. Gillin met with the church vestry of St. Alban's Church New York, NY at the rectory. The groundwork had been laid by Canon Harrington to help prepare the vestry members for his departure as the resident rector. At that same meeting, the vestry of St. Alban's Church, New York, NY voted unanimously to call the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick as Associate Rector. His official duties began on October 1, 2023. **The Standing Committee approved of the action of the Vestry of St. Alban's Church to call the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick to serve as Associate Rector.**

Pastoral Vacancies

On May 8, 2023, Bp. Gillin received a telephone call and email from Fr. Cappucci advising him that he had visited and accepted a subsequent call to St. Francis Church in the Diocese of Ft. Worth, TX in Austin, TX. He has also advised Dean Patterson and Canon Harrington of his decision. He plans to begin his ministry there on July 1, 2023.

Bp. Gillin received an email from the Rev. Dr. David N. Greenwood, Rector, on April 22, 2023, advising him that he had made the decision to resign from Covenant Chapel Basking Ridge, NJ and seek a position with an ACNA parish. Dr. Greenwood communicated his intentions to Dean Jerry McLynn who is working on a plan for service coverage once Dr. Greenwood departs. Bishop Jenkins and Bp. Gillin visited the parish and met with the vestry on June 11, 2023.

Faith Church – Baltimore, MD – The vestry of Faith Church unanimously voted to extend a call to the Rev. Dcn. William A. Jenkins, Jr. as Assistant Rector of the parish on May 7, 2023. This call is contingent upon Deacon Jenkins successfully sustaining his examination for Presbyter's orders by the Examining Chaplains.

Deaconess Retirement

On January 3, 2023, Deaconess Ruth Creswell wrote a letter addressed to Bp. Gillin announcing her retirement. He acknowledged her letter and followed up with a telephone call to pray with and thank her for her ministry.

Funerals & Memorial Services

The Rev. Jack W. Clark was called home to be with the Lord on June 4, 2022. He succumbed to pancreatic cancer at age 74 while living in retirement in Florida. On July 14, 2023, his remains were laid to rest at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE. The Rt. Rev. David L. Hicks was asked by his widow, Esther, to serve as officiant. Bishop Hicks asked Bishop Jenkins and Bishop Gillin to participate in the short military service by reading Holy Scripture.

Jan and Bp. Gillin attended the Memorial Service for **Mrs. Eileen Turnbull** held on January 15, 2023, at St. Matthew's R. E. Church in Havertown, PA. She was called Home to her heavenly rest on November 29, 2022. "Aunt Eileen", as she was affectionately known, was the aunt of Archdeacon Jon W. Abboud and longtime, faithful member of St. Matthew's Church. Bp. Gillin was invited to pronounce the Benediction.

Mrs. Beverly Jean Reese, beloved wife of Mr. Ron Reese for 51 years, was called home to be with the Savior on February 5, 2023, at the age of 70. Beverly was raised in Philadelphia and was a retired nurse. She was a longtime, active member of St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Reformed Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, PA and was also a 40-year member of the community choir, the Hallelujah Singers. Jan and Bp Gillin attended her funeral on February 11, 2023, at the Lambie Funeral Home in Philadelphia, PA. The Rev. David A. France was the Officiant.

Bp. Gillin attended the funeral for **Mr. Steven K. Hoopes** at the Wilde Funeral Home in Parkesburg, PA on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Steve was a longtime member of Grace R. E. Church in Collingdale, PA where he formerly served as Youth Director and the Principal at Christ Academy.

Bp. Gillin requested that the Rev. Michael Blitz attend the Memorial Service for **Mrs. Fern Wilson** and represent our Diocese and the Board of Foreign Missions. He and his wife Stephanie graciously agreed to do this and were present at the service on May 8, 2023, in Linwood, NJ.

He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (St. John 5:24)

Other matters

Election of a Bishop Co-adjutor

On November 3, 2022, the diocesan Council elected the Rev. Canon William A. Jenkins, Sr. Bishop-Coadjutor Elect. He was approved by the ACNA College of Bishops, meeting in Melbourne, FL on January 12, 2023. His Service of Consecration was held at 11:00am on April

29, 2023, at Bishop Cummins Memorial Church in Catonsville, MD. The Most Rev. Foley Beach and the Most Rev. Ray R. Sutton were Co-consecrators.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Cedric R. Benner, Secretary