

REPORT OF THE BISHOP ORDINARY
To the 142st Council of the
Diocese of the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic
of the Reformed Episcopal Church

The following is a listing of my activities serving as Bishop Ordinary from November 7, 2021 through October 9, 2022.

Regular Episcopal Visits to Churches

11/7/21	St. Stephen's Church - Eldersburg, MD Three Confirmations.
11/14/21	Grace Church – Collingdale, PA No Confirmations.
11/21/21	St. John's Church – Ventnor, NJ No Confirmations.
4/3/22	St. Alban's – New York, NY No Confirmations. Four receptions.
4/10/22	Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA No Confirmations.
4/24/22	New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ No Confirmations. Congregational Meeting.
5/1/22	St. Luke's Church – New Providence, NJ No Confirmations.
5/15/22	Faith Church – Baltimore, MD Three Confirmations.
6/5/22	St. Peter's Anglican – Elkton, MD No confirmations.
6/12/22	St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA Two confirmations. Five receptions.
6/26/22	Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA One confirmation. Two receptions.
7/17/22	St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA No confirmations.
7/24/22	Grace Church – Scranton, PA Two confirmations.
9/11/22	Grace Church – Collingdale, PA Five confirmations.
9/17-18/22	St. George's Church – Hamilton, ON, Canada Three confirmations.
9/25/22	St. Timothy's Anglican Church – Mt. Laurel, NJ No confirmations.
10/2/22	St. John's Church – Ventnor, NJ Two confirmations.

Other Church Visits

- 10/24/21 St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church – Philadelphia, PA
Anniversary Banquet
- 12/19/21 St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA
Christmas Dinner
- 1/16/22 St. Paul's Church – Orelan, PA
- 1/23/22 St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA
Congregational Meeting
- 2/20/22 Grace Church – Scranton, PA
Baptism and Congregational Meeting
- 5/22/22 St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD - 40th Anniversary Service & Banquet
- 10/9/22 Daughter's of the Holy Cross Installation – Faith Church, Baltimore, MD

Vestry Meetings

- 11/11/21 Grace Church – Scranton, PA - Zoom
- 11/22/21 New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ – Zoom
- 12/1/21 St. Timothy's Church – Mt. Laurel, NJ - Zoom
- 12/7/21 Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA – Zoom
- 1/18/22 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA - Zoom
- 2/22/22 St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman – Philadelphia, PA – Zoom
- 3/7/22 Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA – Webex
- 3/29/22 St. Paul's Church – Orelan, PA – Zoom
- 5/11/22 New Redeemer – Jersey City, NJ – Zoom
- 5/17/22 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA – Zoom
- 8/2/22 New Redeemer – Jersey City, NJ - Zoom
- 9/13/22 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA - Zoom
- 10/3/22 New Redeemer – Jersey City, NJ - Zoom

Diocesan Meetings

- 2/3-5/22 Clergy & Wives Retreat – Lancaster, PA
- 2/15/22 New Jersey Deanery – Zoom
- 2/16/22 Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada Synod – Zoom
- 3/15/22 New Jersey Deanery - Zoom
- 4/6/22 Ordination Exams – St. Mark's Church - Rydal, PA
- 5/14/22 Women's Day – St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD
- 5/16/22 Diocesan Trustees – Zoom
- 5/19/22 Standing Committee – Zoom
- 9/19/22 Diocesan Trustees – Zoom
- 9/21/22 Standing Committee – Zoom
- 10/3/22 Standing Committee - Zoom

Other Diocesan Functions

- 11/30/21 Meeting with Dean Patterson and Fr. Earnest Nadeem – Zoom
- 12/6/21 Meeting with Dean Patterson and Fr. Earnest Nadeem – Zoom

- 1/27/22 Lunch meeting with Dean Patterson and Fr. Earnest Nadeem – Blue Bell, PA
- 1/30/22 St. Mark’s Church – Rydal, PA – State of the Church Report – Zoom
- 6/24/22 Ordination Service – St. Mark’s Church – Rydal, PA
- 6/25/22 Memorial Service for Marjorie MacCausland – Paoli, PA
- 7/16/22 Farewell in Lansdale, PA for the families of the Rev. Tait Deems and Mr. Cody Moran and congratulations to priestly ordinands Rev. Messrs. Aaron Cappucci and Matthew Maule – St. Mark’s Church – Rydal, PA
- 7/18/22 Funeral for Mr. Gerald Higham – St. Luke’s & Bishop Hoffman – Philadelphia, PA
- 7/25/22 Visit to the NEMA Summer Camp – Susquehanna, PA
- 8/3/22 Visit to the Caedmon Music Seminar – St. Mark’s Church – Rydal, PA

Reformed Episcopal Seminary Meetings

- 2/11/22 Board Meeting - Zoom
- 5/21/22 Commencement – St. Mark’s Church, Rydal, PA

Reformed Episcopal Church Meetings

- 11/2/21 Board of Foreign Missions - Zoom
- 12/8/21 General Committee - Zoom
- 4/19/22 Council of Bishops - Zoom
- 4/21/22 Theological Commission - Zoom
- 4/22/22 General Committee - Zoom
- 6/21/22 Anglican Church of Germany - Zoom
- 6/30/22 Anglican Church of Germany - Zoom
- 8/9/22 Anglican Church of Germany - Zoom
- 8/12-13/22 Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Willie, J. Hill. Jr. – Grace Church – Moncks Corner, SC
- 8/13/22 Anglican Church of Germany - Zoom
- 8/30/22 Anglican Church of Germany - Zoom
- 8/30/22 Board of Foreign Missions - Zoom

ACNA Meetings

- 1/10-14/22 College of Bishops - Zoom
- 5/5/22 College of Bishops - Zoom
- 6/13-14/22 College of Bishops – Falls Church, VA
- 9/25-28/22 College of Bishops’ Conclave – Black Mountain, NC

Clerical Transfer

On March 9, 2022 I issued a Letter Dimissory for the Rev. Andrew Brummett, at his request, to the Reformed Episcopal Diocese of Mid-America. Fr. Brummett served this Diocese as Head Master of Christ Academy, Collingdale, PA, as Interim at Grace Church, Collingdale, PA, as administrator and teacher at Atonement Academy in Philadelphia, PA and as the chairperson of the Christian Education Committee. We are thankful for his ministry among us and pray God’s blessing upon him and his family.

Clerical Reception

On February 1, 2022 I received and approved the application of the Rev. Earnest Nadeem to be received as presbyter in this Diocese. The Standing Committee concurred on May 19, 2022.

Ordination Exams

On April 6, 2022, the Examining Chaplains examined the Rev. Deacon Matthew G. Maule and the Rev. Deacon Aaron T. Cappucci for advancement to the priesthood. Both men passed their exams which were held at St. Mark's Church, Rydal, PA where each have been involved in ministry for several years.

Ordinations

Rev. Aaron Tyler Cappucci & Rev. Matthew Gregory Maule - On June 24, 2022 at 5:00pm, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, I ordained the Rev. Aaron Tyler Cappucci and the Rev. Matthew Gregory Maule to the presbyterate. The Presenter was the Very Rev. Dr. Rev. Jason Patterson who also delivered the sermon. The Litanist was the Rev. Tait Deems. The Epistoller was the Rev. Timothy Cappucci and the Gospeller was the Rev. Jonathan Kell. Other participants were the Rev. Barton Gingerich and Mr. Gregory Maule. A lovely reception, hosted by the parish, was held following the service.

Postulants

Joshua Devers (St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD)
Rick Wilson (Grace Church, Havre-de-Grace, MD)
Jared Lovell (Grace Church – Scranton, PA)
Tom Davison (Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ)
Stephen Atchison (St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA)
Timothy Meadows (St. Alban's Church – New York, NY)
Kevin Murphy (Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA)
Norris Gadsden (New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ)

Lay Reader Licensure

Daniel Wright (St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA)
Johnathan Jenkins (Faith Church – Baltimore, MD)
Aiden Gillespie-Jenkins (Faith Church – Baltimore, MD)
Christopher Alsrue (Faith Church – Baltimore, MD)
Jeffrey E. Castor - St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA
Benjamin P. Pearce – St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA
Nicholas A. L. Blitz – St. John's Church – Ventnor, NJ

Baptism

Oliver Augustine Lovell

I baptized Oliver Augustine Lovell on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at Grace Church, Scranton, PA. Oliver Augustine is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Jared Lovell. Mr. Lovell serves as Senior Warden at the church and is a postulant for the ministry in the Diocese.

Funerals

Watson Oliver Wooten, Jr.

Jan and I attended the funeral service for Mr. Oliver Wooten, father of Mrs. Kim Jenkins on Friday, February 25, 2022 at the Schimenuk Funeral Home in Nottingham, MD. The officiant was the Rev. Canon William A. Jenkins, Sr. I participated in the interment at Moreland Memorial Cemetery in Parkville, MD.

Thomas Caldwell

I served as officiant at the funeral and Service of Holy Communion for Mr. Thomas Caldwell at St. Mark's Reformed Episcopal Church, Rydal, PA on Saturday, February 26, 2022. I was assisted by the clergy of the church, including the Very Rev. Dr. Jason S. Patterson who also delivered the homily. Mr. Caldwell was raised at Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia, PA and previously served as Senior Warden at St. Mark's Church to the Rev. Richard W. Workowski, the Rev. Cn. R. Charles Gillin (Interim) and the Very Rev. Dr. Jason S. Patterson.

Rudolph B. Smith III

On Thursday March 3, 2022 Jan and I attended the funeral service for Mr. Rudolph B. Smith III held at Logan-Videon Funeral Home in Broomall, PA. The service was conducted by his long-time pastor, the Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud, Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA. I was invited to pronounce the benediction. Mr. Smith was a long-time member of St. Matthew's Church where he previously served on the vestry.

Gerald F. Higham

On July 18, 2022 Jan and I attended the funeral service for Mr. Gerald Higham at St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia, PA. The Rev. David A. France, Vicar, was the officiant. Mr. Higham entered into the presence of his Lord on July 4, 2022. He was the beloved husband of Susan for over 49 years. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran who retired after 23 years of service. He was also a longtime member of Trinity and St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Reformed Episcopal Churches, where he served as the Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Sunday school teacher, young people's leader, and on various diocesan and denominational boards and committees.

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. St. John 11:25, 26

Pastoral Vacancies

Emmanuel Church (Mission) – Pipersville, PA – Canon Jonathan Riches continues to serve as Interim Vicar. He has scheduled a number of visiting ministers and Seminary students to assist with services.

New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ – This parish continues under the Bishop's oversight. I have been assisted by the Dean Jerry Mc Lynn who has agreed to schedule presbyters to serve the Eucharist once-a-month at the church. As of late, the Rev. Justin Forsberg has been making these visits. Mr. Norris Gadsden, Mr. Tyrell Brinson and the Rev. Chester Banks have been alternating reading Morning Prayer and preaching. The future rector's position requirements

and church description have been sent to the diocesan, REC and ACNA websites for posting by the Search Committee.

Several clergymen responded to the postings. The Search Committee seriously communicated with the Rev. Keion Jackson. Rev. Jackson had submitted his vitae and other information for consideration by the Examining Chaplains. Rev. Jackson was sent the diocesan questionnaire and follow-up questions for clarification. In addition, he was interviewed by the Examining Chaplains and me by Zoom.

During the vetting process, irregularities were discovered with respect to Rev. Jackson's ordination and educational credentials. Repeated attempts were made to clarify these issues by the Very Rev. Dr. Jason S. Patterson, Chairman of the Examining Chaplains. On May 3, 2022, Rev. Jackson emailed me to withdraw from consideration for the position at New Redeemer Church.

In addition to the above, following Rev. Jackson's Zoom interview with the Examining Chaplains, he submitted an article on baptismal regeneration to me for review and to recommend for online posting. I requested that he not post it and found the posting by the author, the Rev. Wesley Walker. Rev. Jackson's article was a word-for-word copy of Rev. Walker's original article. Upon further inquiry, Rev. Jackson claimed, in writing, to have co-authored the post. Dean Patterson contacted the author, by email, who claimed to not know Rev. Keion Jackson.

As a result of these irregularities, I requested a Zoom meeting between the vestry and the Examining Chaplains, Canon Harrington and Dean McLynn. This was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Dean Patterson issued the meeting invitation and provided screen shots of the forementioned correspondence for everyone to view. There was great disappointment on behalf of the vestry that earnestly desires new pastoral leadership. Diane Jennings, Senior Warden, requested the opportunity to follow-up with Rev. Jackson to possibly help clarify issues. I agreed to this and Dean Patterson volunteered to assist her to attempt to verify his ordination and degrees.

The vestry did meet with Rev. Jackson. Following that meeting, several members were in favor of calling Rev. Jackson in spite of difficulties with his credentials and claims. On August 2, 2022 I called for a Zoom church vestry meeting. I had also invited Dean Jason Patterson, Dean Gerald McLynn, Canon Matthew Harrington and the Rev. Justin Forsberg. All twelve members of the vestry were present on the Zoom call. Since the Search Committee had not presented a written recommendation to call Rev. Jackson, I requested a verbal vote of that Committee pursuant to the recommendation. The four Committee members, all of whom were vestrypersons, unanimously voted to recommend the Rev. Keion Jackson to the vestry. That recommendation was seconded and the vestry voted to defeat the motion 8-4. The Search Committee and vestry will restart the pastoral search process. Subsequently, I invited the Rev. Chester Banks to join the preaching and service rotation. He had been a frequent participant by the previous invitations of the Rev. Booker Lloyd and the Rev. John Milligan.

On another matter, I received written notification from the attorney for the insurance company representing the church in its defense of a lawsuit entered by Rev. Charles Mitchell, that the lawsuit has been dismissed by the court with prejudice. Dismissal with prejudice means that the plaintiff cannot refile the same claim again in that court. I notified the vestry of the court's decision and confidentially forwarded the attorney's paperwork to Canon Harrington, the Senior Warden and vestry Secretary for filing.

Grace Church (Mission) – Scranton, PA – This mission continues under the Bishop's oversight. Mr. Jared Lovell, Sr. Warden, Dr. Joshua Arp, Jr. Warden and Mr. Evan Hughes continue to provide local lay leadership in the absence of a vicar along with other local vestry members. Mr. Lovell was hired by the church to perform intern-related activities. The Rev. William Garrison has been engaged by the vestry to visit the church twice each month to preside at the Lord's Table and to preach.

The Gillin and Abboud families visited the church on February 20, 2022. Archdeacon Abboud delivered the homily and addressed the congregation concerning Looney-Hoffman issues in anticipation of a loan application for additional church repairs and upgrades. I chaired the mission's congregational meeting following a luncheon. It was our hope to visit with the campers at the diocesan winter camp at Rock Mountain the day before, however, we were prevented in doing so due to inclement weather.

I made an Episcopal visit on July 24, 2022, confirmed two candidates and chaired a vestry meeting. Various property matters were discussed, including an extensive outdoor paving project. This project has begun and will hopefully be completed by diocesan Council. The church looks forward to hosting diocesan Council and the Diocese is thankful for their willingness to do so.

St. Peter's Church – Elkton, MD – The Rev. Frank Spadafora continues to serve as Interim Vicar. A Search Committee has been formed and the Committee has issued a letter to prospective pastoral candidates. They are seeking a part-time rector and have constructed a financial package. The rector's position needs and church description have been sent to the diocesan, REC and ACNA websites for posting. I made the Episcopal visit to the church on June 5, 2022 and met with the vestry. Rev. Spadafora has indicated his willingness to continue to serve as Interim. He is often assisted by the Rev. John Campbell.

Church Reports

St. Mary's Church – New York, NY – On June 27, 2019 the Rev. Belgrave Pelle advised me that the parish was considering another jurisdictional affiliation because of the issue of women's ordination. I was notified that the vestry has voted to pursue this on March 11, 2020. On January 7, 2021 I received notice that the congregation voted to disassociate from our Diocese. The petitions contained 139 names of members. I continued to be in communication with Rev. Pelle about possible alternative arrangements. Two ANCA jurisdictions, that ordain women to the priesthood, chose not to pursue a relationship with St. Mary's Church. I emailed Rev. Pelle to determine if the vestry was still insistent on affiliating with a jurisdiction that ordained

women to the priesthood or would they possibly consider one that ordained women to the diaconate. He acknowledged that was a possibility. Shortly thereafter, I contacted Bishop Julian Dobbs of the Diocese of the Living Word to determine his interest. He has several churches in the New York City area under care. He made contact with Rev. Pelle and subsequently, the church made application to be received into the ACNA Diocese of the Living Word. Even though St. Mary's Church disaffiliated with the NEMA Diocese, nonetheless, Bishop Dobbs requested a letter of release from me and the Standing Committee, since the church held membership in our Diocese for over 25 years. I also released Rev. Pelle to the care of Bishop Dobbs without issuing a letter dimissory.

At the Standing Committee meeting on May 19, 2022 I requested, with regret and sorrow, that the Standing Committee vote to release St. Mary's Church from NEMA diocesan oversight. That recommendation was seconded and sustained.

St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA – For the past two years the church has reported the following in their statistical report to the diocesan State of the Church Committee: 2019 membership – 29 and 2020 membership – 28. Therefore, I recommended that the Standing Committee designate St. Paul's Church a mission, which they did at their meeting held on May 20, 2021, according to Title II, Canon 2, Sec. 5A. of the NEMA Canons: *In the event that the communicant membership of a Parish falls below the number of thirty (30) for two consecutive years, that Parish will be given the status of a Mission Parish with the relief and assistance to which Mission Parishes are subject under the Canons of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, and subject to the limitations of the same.* On August 2, 2021 I met with the vestry, accompanied by Archdeacon Jon Abboud and Dean Jason Patterson. The Rt. Rev. Steven Breedlove and representatives from the Diocese of Christ our Hope were also invited to discuss the possibility of a church transfer. On September 28, 2021 I chaired the first meeting of the Provisional Vestry held by Zoom. I had appointed Archdeacon Jon Abboud, Canon Matt Harrington, Dean Jason Patterson, Canon Mark Rudolph, Dr. Cody Palmer and Ms. Irene Maguire to serve on this vestry. The last three mentioned were recommended by Bishop Breedlove. Following the satisfactory disposition of financial record-keeping at the church, the second Provisional Vestry meeting was held by Zoom on March 29, 2022. I invited Mr. Lee Hilts, who had been serving as Treasurer, to the meeting as a non-voting participant. At that meeting several items were passed that affected the Medvick family. In addition, the motion was made by Canon Mark Rudolph and seconded by Ms. Irene Maguire to recommend to the congregation the transfer St. Paul's Church from the NEMA Diocese to the Diocese of Christ Our Hope. After some discussion, the vote failed by a 6-0 margin. I had a follow-up call with Bishop Breedlove to inform him of the vote. I also sent letters, as email attachments, to the members of the congregation and Rev. Medvick. Archdeacon Jon Abboud, Canon Matthew Harrington and Dean Jason Patterson have been an invaluable source of good counsel and help during this long and difficult process.

Following the failed vestry transfer vote, Mr. Lee Hilts advised me he was no longer able to continue as church Treasurer and forwarded a list of duties he was performing for the church. Mr. Greg Hoyt, who attends St. Mark's Church in Rydal, PA and who is on staff at R. E. Seminary

doing primarily financial work, has been hired by the vestry as Parish Administrator. His duties will include church Treasurer. Mr. Greg Wright is a signer on all St. Paul's Church accounts and removed Mr. Ray Baker and added Mr. Greg Hoyt.

The Rev. John Medvick and his family vacated the rectory property prior to June 30, 2022.

I do not believe this outcome could have been reached without the sacrificial ministry of Canon Matt Harrington and his wife, Susan. He volunteered to preside at services at St. Paul's three Sundays a month and has made the trip from New York City, accompanied by Susan, to keep these engagements. The Rev. Dr. Dale Crouthamel has been available to lead services on the first Sunday of each month so Canon Harrington can be present at St. Alban's Church. We are indebted to the Harrington family and recognize the godly impact they've had on the congregation and its Day School. The church is meeting in the sanctuary again as well as using the Reformed Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. Canon Harrington has been consistently assisted by Deacon Carl Wegner.

A plan was developed by Canon Harrington and Dean Jason Patterson that will allow a ministry sharing arrangement to serve the needs of St. Paul's Church and St. Alban's Church. Dr. Dennis Wermert and Mr. Timothy Meadows have been serving at St. Alban's Church by reading Morning Prayer and preaching in Canon Harrington's absence. The plan moving forward involves the assignment of the Rev. Matthew Maule to conduct services at St. Alban's Church when Canon Harrington is absent and the Rev. Aaron Cappucci to assist him at St. Paul's Church. It is expected that this arrangement will be in place for approximately one year. The Diocese is thankful for and indebted to all the committed participants involved in the effort, including the vestries and congregations of St. Alban's and St. Mark's Churches.

Good Shepherd Church – South Easton, MA

The Very Rev. Eduardo A. Andrade reported the purchase of the New Hope Christian Chapel, 6 Meadowhill Ct., South Easton, MA 02375 on April 21, 2022. The congregation of Good Shepherd had been renting this facility for many years. We rejoice with them and pray God's blessing on their ministry on their 'new' building. Archdeacon and Mrs. Jon Abboud visited the church, on behalf of the Bishop, on August 14, 2022 and presented the rector and congregation with a congratulatory plaque in recognition of their building purchase.

Grace Church – Collingdale, PA

In conjunction with my Episcopal visit to confirm five candidates on September 11, 2022, I also instituted the Rev. Shawn Riley as rector of the parish.

Other Matters

Reformed Episcopal Seminary

The 130th Commencement of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary was held on Saturday, May 21 at St. Mark's Church in Rydal, PA. Four graduates received the Master of Divinity degree and one graduate the new Master of Arts degree. The Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman was the homilist

and was presented with the Doctor of Divinity degree by the Seminary. The Rev. Cn. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches was installed by me in the endowed chair in Anglican Studies named and established in honor of the Most Rev. Leonard W. Riches. A reception was held in Cranmer Hall following the service.

Rev. Earnest Nadeem

Dean Jason Patterson spearheaded an effort to bring the Rev. Earnest Nadeem to this country from Sri Lanka. He is a native Pakistani who has had past difficulties with the Pakistani authorities due to his Christian activities. Rev. Nadeem could no longer serve under his bishop in Sri Lanka because of theological issues. This brought him to our Diocese. Dean Patterson made arrangements with Dr. Jonathan Riches to house Fr. Nadeem at the Seminary student housing. He was assigned to work with the Rev. David France at St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia, PA in an outreach effort to South Asian people, particularly from Pakistan and India. Funding for this effort was provided by a gracious gift from St. Alban's Church, New York, NY. Fr. Nadeem and Fr. France worked very well together engaging with the neighborhood. Lenten services were held with South Asian people and an ESL class continues with people of various ethnicities as a result of their outreach efforts (see below). Fr. Nadeem was required to return to Sri Lanka to rejoin his family because of visa requirements.

An immigration attorney has been contacted and has begun the process to obtain a religious visa for Fr. Earnest and then for his family to join him here. I received Fr. Nadeem as a presbyter in the NEMA Diocese on February 1, 2022. His short time with us has proven profitable for the ministry.

Visitations on the Bishop's Behalf

At my request, the following clergy visited these churches that have no confirmations or specific need for the Bishop to visit this diocesan year:

8/14/22 - Archdeacon Jon Abboud: Good Shepherd Church - South Easton, MA
9/11/22 - Archdeacon Jon Abboud: St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church - Philadelphia, PA
9/18/22 - Archdeacon Jon Abboud: Good Shepherd Church - Brooklyn, NY
9/18/22 - Dean Eric Jorgensen: Bishop Cummins Church – Catonsville, MD
9/25/22 - Canon William Jenkins: Grace Church – Havre de Grace, MD

NEMA Youth Camps

The Committee on Young People's Work, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Dcn. Billy Jenkins, hosted the winter camp weekend on February 18-20, 2022 at Rock Mountain Bible Camp in Susquehanna, PA. The summer camp, also at the Rock Mountain, was held on July 14-30. The theme of the summer camp was, "C. S. Lewis' Christian Fiction". Jan and I visited the camp on July 25, 2022 and I addressed and prayed for the staff and campers. Approximately 130 campers and staff were in attendance. We are thankful for the dedicated ministry of the teachers, counselors and other staff to the young people. Pray that the seeds that were planted in the hearts of young lives will bear fruit unto everlasting life.

Caedmon Music Conference

St. Mark's Church hosted this conference for church musicians and choral leaders on August 3-6, 2022 in Rydal, PA. The instructors were Mr. Andrew Dittman and Mr. Chris Hoyt both of whom serve in Reformed Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Mid-America. The Conference was held to promote music education and mutual encouragement of Anglicans, especially those who minister in a traditional Prayer Book context. Over 50 attendees enjoyed the conference. Every REC diocese was represented including, the German AKD Diocese (Christ Church – Berlin). Another conference is being planned.

Consecration

On August 13, 2022 Jan and I attended the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Willie James Hill, Jr. at Grace Reformed Episcopal Church in Moncks Corner, SC. His consecrators were the Most Rev. Foley Beach and the Most Rev. Ray R. Sutton. I was privileged to participate in the examination of the candidate and in the laying on of hands. Following the service, the Diocese of the Southeast hosted a lovely reception in honor of Bishop Hill and his family at the Berkley Middle School in Moncks Corner.

Risk Management

I appointed the Rev. Cedric Benner, the Rev. Deacon Billy Jenkins and Mrs. Sarah Benner to a special committee to study current NEMA policies, the policies of other organizations and to compile a recommended draft for the Standing Committee's consideration and implementation. I've received a rough draft, which I edited and subsequently forwarded to Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Headman for review. It was then forwarded to Dean Matthew Harrington for chancellery review and recommendation. The Standing Committee considered this matter at its September 21, 2022 meeting and tabled the matter for further study and consideration.

Website

The new diocesan website has been designed and is being maintained by Mr. Greg Wright with the assistance of Mrs. Holly Howden. The parish prototype for St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA is completed. The plan is to have a similar prototypical website for each church in the Diocese.

Summer Mission Project

Unfortunately, this mission project was cancelled this year.

AKD German Church Evaluation

I was asked by Bishop Ray Sutton to head a committee to review the German AKD Diocese in Germany. Other members were: Bishop Peter Manto, Canon John Boonzaaijer and Canon Jim Payne. After several meetings, the approval of Bishop Sutton and the AKD Standing Committee it was determined that the Diocese was unsustainable in its current state and it was decided to designate it as a Missionary Convocation of the Board of Foreign Missions. Bishop Sutton will appoint a committee to oversee this effort on his behalf. Canon John Boonzaaijer, as President of the Foreign Board, will chair the committee.

Retreat

On April 28-30, 2022 Archdeacon Jon Abboud, Canon Bill Jenkins, Canon Matt Harrington, Dean Eric Jorgensen, Dean Jason Patterson and I met in Cape May, NJ to discuss and pray about church planting and revitalization in the Diocese. Our devotional focus was the book of Nehemiah. Archdeacon Abboud graciously opened his family home in Cape May for our meetings. Canon Bill Jenkins served as Chaplain to the group. Dean Patterson led discussions about revitalization since he currently leads a cohort of several of our men to discuss this issue on a regular basis. We spent the final morning in prayer and planning. Please pray for the successful follow-up for these meetings.

Clergy Wives Prayer Concerns

Mrs. Jan Gillin has established a confidential NEMA clergy wives' prayer ministry. It has been met with growing participation and thanksgiving. All clergy wives are encouraged to participate.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

A chapter for this women's prayer ministry was established at Faith Church, Baltimore, MD by Mrs. Kim Jenkins. Several women have been meeting by Zoom with instructors from the Daughters during the discernment process. Their induction into this prayer ministry was held on Sunday, October 9, 2022 at Faith Church. Canon William Jenkins and I participated in the service. Members of the St. Elizabeth Chapter in South Carolina were present to welcome and present these newest members. Congratulations to this "Faithful Daughters" chapter and its members: Sandra Alsrue, Meagan Bohlen, Chee Cox, Shirley Fisher, Jan Gillin, Allison Gillespie-Jenkins, Kim Jenkins and Emily Marble.

ESL Ministry

An English as a second language program is being held regularly at St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church, Philadelphia, PA as a Front Porch ministry outreach. The classes are being taught by Chris and Naomi Morris, members of St. Mark's Church, Rydal, PA. They had previously taught these classes in China. They have had over twenty attendees at the class from several countries.

Election of a Co-adjutor

I laid before the Standing Committee the need to elect a Co-adjutor for the Diocese and the Committee concurred. I provided the President with a time table. A sustainability form was filed with the Archbishop's office and the ACNA College of Bishops approved the election process. In addition, Presiding Bishop Ray Sutton also provided his permission.

An Episcopal Search Committee was appointed by Dean Eric Jorgensen. The Committee polled the clergy and churches for the names of potential candidates. Since Dean Jorgensen's name was put forward as a candidate, the Canons required him to recuse himself as the chair of the Episcopal Search Committee. The Canons specify, should this eventuate, that the most senior presbyter on the Standing Committee then assume the chairmanship of the Episcopal Search

Committee. The Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud was advised of this responsibility and agreed to fulfill it.

The Episcopal Search Committee continued its duties under the guidance of Dr. Abboud. A vitae was requested from each candidate and individual ZOOM interviews were held. Dr. Abboud worked closely with Bishop William Murdoch, who is Archbishop Foley Beach's representative for Episcopal elections in the Jurisdiction. All required clearances were obtained and the Episcopal Search Committee submitted its recommendation for acceptance.

I chaired the Standing Committee meeting held on September 21, 2022. The candidates, who also serve on the Standing Committee, dismissed themselves during the discussion to consider the recommendation of the Episcopal Search Committee. At a meeting held on October 3, 2022, the Standing Committee voted to put forward the following for election as Coadjutor to the 142nd Diocese of the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church to be held on November 3-4, 2022 in Scranton, PA:

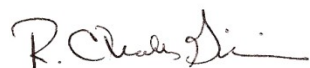
- The Rev. Canon William A. Jenkins, Sr.
- The Very Rev. Dr. Eric W. Jorgensen

The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese is the Bishop Ordinary and the Standing Committee. I concur with this action of the Standing Committee.

I would like to thank the members of the Episcopal Search and Standing Committees for their many careful labors that have resulted in this outcome. I also thank the episcopal candidates for their perseverance, patience and commitment to the process. I encourage you and them to continue to pray for God's wisdom in your discernment process in anticipation of the episcopal vote. Please continue to pray for the continued direction and blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, I would like to express appreciation to my dear wife Jan for her continued labor and commitment to me and the church. She is a constant source of support and encouragement in every area of my life. In addition to her greeting card ministry, this past year she also began a regular confidential ministry wives' prayer email and became a member of the Daughters of the Holy Cross prayer ministry. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this past summer. May God give us many more years together in our new residence in Quarryville, PA.

Respectfully submitted,



Bishop R. Charles Gillin