

REPORT OF THE BISHOP ORDINARY
To the 143rd 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 October 10, 2022 through October 18, 2023.

Regular Episcopal Visits to Churches

10/16/22	Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ One confirmation
10/23/22	Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA Four confirmations and two receptions
11/20/22	St. Stephen’s Church – Eldersburg, MD Five confirmations
1/22/23	St. Mark’s Church – Rydal, PA Three confirmations and three receptions
4/16/23	Good Shepherd Church – Harrisburg, PA Two confirmations and one reception
4/23/23	New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ No confirmations – Congregational Meeting
4/30/23	Bishop Cummins Church – Catonsville, MD No confirmations
5/7/23	St. Luke’s & Bishop Hoffman Church – Philadelphia, PA No confirmations
5/21/23	St. Matthew’s Church – Havertown, PA (Jointly with Bishop Jenkins) Twelve confirmations
6/4/23	St. Peter’s Church – Elkton, MD Two confirmations
6/11/23	Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ (Jointly with Bishop Jenkins) Three confirmations
6/25/23	Emmanuel Church – Somerville, NJ Two confirmations
9/10/23	St. Alban’s Church – New York, NY No confirmations
9/17/23	St. Timothy’s – Mt. Laurel, NJ One confirmation
9/24/23	Jesus the Good Shepherd – Brooklyn, NY No confirmations – Two receptions
10/1/23	Good Shepherd – South Easton, MA (Jointly with Bishop Jenkins) One confirmation Church Building Consecration (9/30/23)
10/8/23	St. Paul’s Church – Oreland, PA No confirmations

Other Church Visits

1/8/23 St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA
2/12/23 St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA
7/16/23 St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA
7/23/23 Good Shepherd Church – Harrisburg, PA
8/27/23 St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA

Vestry Meetings

10/11/22 Atonement Church – Philadelphia, PA
1/17/23 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA
1/31/23 St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA
3/28/23 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA
3/30/23 New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ
4/20/23 St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church – Philadelphia, PA
4/24/23 Atonement Church – Philadelphia, PA
5/2/23 Grace Church – Scranton, PA
5/31/23 New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ
6/13/23 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA
6/14/23 Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA
9/19/23 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA
9/21/23 Grace Church – Scranton, PA
10/3/23 Atonement Church – Philadelphia, PA
10/4/23 New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ
10/5/23 St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA
10/10/23 Grace Church – Havre-de-Grace, MD
10/17/23 St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church – Philadelphia, PA
10/18/23 Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ

Diocesan Meetings

11/3-4/22 142nd Diocesan Council – Scranton, PA
4/29/23 Consecration of the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr. – Catonsville, MD
5/2/23 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church (Zoom)
5/16/23 Trustees (Zoom)
5/25/23 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church (Zoom)
6/12/23 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church Visit
7/11/23 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church (Zoom)
9/25/23 St. Alban's Financials – New York, NY (Zoom)
10/9/23 Trustees – Blue Bell, PA
10/12/23 Standing Committee (Zoom)
10/10/23 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church (Zoom)
10/18/23 St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman / ESL Ministry – Philadelphia, PA (Zoom)

Other Diocesan Functions

1/15/23 Attended Memorial Service for Eileen Turnbull – Havertown, PA
1/24/23 Ordination Exam for Steven Atchison – Haverford, PA
2/2-4/23 Clergy & Wives Retreat – Lancaster, PA
2/11/23 Attended Funeral Service for Beverly Reese – Philadelphia, PA
4/15/23 Attended Funeral Service for Steven Hoopes – Parkesburg, PA
5/6/23 Women’s Day Luncheon – Faith Church - Baltimore, MD
10/6/23 Attended Memorial Service for William Kozma – Collingdale, PA

Reformed Episcopal Seminary Meetings

2/10/23 Board of Director’s (Zoom)
2/15/23 Clergy Lunch – Blue Bell, PA
2/24/23 Board of Director’s (Zoom)
5/12/23 Board of Director’s (Zoom)
5/20/23 Commencement – St. Paul’s Church – Oreland, PA
6/1/23 Greystone Theological Institute (Zoom)

Reformed Episcopal Church Meetings

2/24/23 REC100
4/25/23 Council of Bishops
4/26/23 Committee Meetings
4/27/23 General Committee
6/6-8/23 General Council – Charleston, SC
7/11/23 Council of Bishops (Zoom)
7/11/23 Board of Foreign Missions (Zoom)
8/29/23 Council of Bishops (Zoom)
9/13/23 Council of Bishops
9/20/23 Council of Bishops
10/13-15/23 Spiritual Enrichment Conference – Williamsburg, VA

ACNA Meetings

9/26-28/22 College of Bishops – Asheville, NC
1/9-13/23 College of Bishops – Melbourne, FL
1/18/23 Attended consecration of the Rt. Rev. Christopher Warner – Falls Church, VA
6/19-21/23 College of Bishops – Plano, TX

Clerical Transfers

On April 13, 2023 I 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 I 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 I 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.

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.

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.

Ordinations

Jared Lovell – On November 2, 2022 at 7:30pm I 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 homily was delivered by the Rev. William G. Garrison, Jr.

Stephen Atchison – On May 20, 2023 at 3:00pm I ordained Mr. Stephen Atchison, Deacon, at St. Matthew's Reformed Episcopal Church, Havertown, PA. The ordinand was presented by the Ven. Dr. Jon W. Abboud. The Rev. Rod Lee served as Litanist. The homily was delivered by the Rev. Justin M. Forsberg.

Kevin Murphy – On October 7, 2023 at 1:00pm I ordained Mr. Kevin Murphy, Deacon, at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Harrisburg, PA. The service was held in the beautiful sanctuary of the historic Zion Lutheran Church. The candidate was presented by the Rev. Ricky McCarl. The Rev. Shawn Riley served as Litanist. The Epistle was read by Pastor Karin Pejack. Rev. Deacon Murphy read the Gospel and the ante- and post-Holy Communion readers were Rev. Justin M. Forsberg and the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr. The homily was delivered by the Rev. Cn. Jonathan S. Riches.

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 Church – Rydal, PA)
Matthew Trail (St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD)

Deaconess Retirement

On January 3, 2023 **Deaconess Ruth Creswell** wrote a letter addressed to me announcing her retirement. I acknowledged her letter with one of my own and followed up with a telephone call to pray with and thank her for her ministry.

Clerical Necrology

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 me to participate in the short military service by reading Holy Scripture.

Lay Reader Licensures

St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA - Mr. Jon Auer, Mr. Keith Beardsworth, Mr. Charles Hadden and Mr. Caleb Madison

St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA – Mr. Thornton Carpenter and Mr. Daniel Mainieri

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 McLynn who has agreed to schedule presbyters to serve the Eucharist once-a-month at the church. The Rev. Justin Forsberg has been making these visits. Mr. Norris Gadsden and the Rev. Chester Banks have been alternating reading Morning Prayer and preaching.

The Search Committee recommended the call of the Rev. Chester Banks to the vestry. At a vestry meeting held on October 4, 2023, it unanimously voted to extend a call to Rev. Chester Banks to serve as the minister of New Redeemer Church. Since Rev. Banks is from an independent church background the vestry understands that the call depends upon the completion of a study program I have put into place, Standing Committee approval (Title 1, Canon 10, Section 5 (a) (3)) and Rev. Bank's submission of his seminary transcript and diploma.

I recommended to the Standing Committee, and it was approved, that the Rev. Chester Banks, following the receipt of his seminary transcript and diploma and a successful interview and examination by the Examining Chaplains and Dean Jerry McLynn be received on our clergy rolls as a Deacon. As such Title 1, Canon 10, Section 5 (a) (3) shall apply:

Thereafter the Bishop, being satisfied of such Minister's theological attainments and soundness in faith, may (3) Receive him as a Minister of the Gospel and conditionally regularize his status as a Deacon or a Presbyter by laying on of hands and by use of the proper form as found in the Ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer.

Grace Church (Mission) – Scranton, PA – This mission continues under the Bishop’s oversight. Deacon 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.

I participated in a Vestry Zoom meeting on May 2, 2023. Various property matters were discussed, including outdoor projects. The church held a fall conference titled “Developing the Moral Imagination” on October 13-14, 2023. Also, it was reported that the church will not be requesting diocesan parish assistance from the Trustees for 2024. The vestry has requested that the Standing Committee approve the renaming of Grace Reformed Episcopal Church to Grace Anglican Church, subtitled a Reformed Episcopal Congregation. The Committee approved this name change.

I recommended to the Standing Committee that Deacon Jared Lovell be appointed Minister in Charge of Grace Church, Scranton, PA according to Title 1, Canon 9, Section 3(c): *A deacon ordained under the provisions of this Canon shall not be appointed Minister in Charge except under special circumstances by recommendation of the Bishop Ordinary with the concurrence of a majority of the clerical members of the Standing Committee and The Ordinary and Standing Committee may appoint a Deacon to serve as Minister-in-charge of any Parish without Pastoral care. A Deacon serving as Minister-in-charge shall be under the sole authority and direction of the Ordinary and Standing Committee in the exercise of all of his ministerial functions.* (NEMA Title III, Canon 1, Sec. 8). The Committee approved this recommendation.

On September 7, 2023, Bishop Bill Jenkins, Archdeacon Jon Abboud and I traveled to Tunkhannock Presbyterian Church in Tunkhannock, PA to meet with Deacon Jared Lovell and Evan Hughes and to tour this church property. We were met by Mr. John Davenport, a lifetime member of the church. The congregation of this church has dwindled and the property is up for sale for \$200,000. Several newly confirmed members of Grace Church, Scranton, who live in the Tunkhannock area, alerted Deacon Lovell about the church sale. A group of people, including the new Grace Church members, have been regularly meeting for a Bible study on Friday evenings and their homes have outgrown the capacity to host the studies. This church can provide a more spacious meeting place for the study and worship services. The Looney-Hoffman Fund has already approved enough loan money to purchase the building and provide for necessary repairs. In the meantime, the Tunkhannock church has provided year-end financial reports for the past three years which show expenses for maintenance, utilities and insurance to help determine if this acquisition is feasible. Another concern is the cost of required governmental regulations that may be required upon the transfer of the deed. The building purchase is still under consideration by the vestry.

I recommended to the Standing Committee that we approve this church planting effort in Tunkhannock, PA and receive it as Extension Work of Grace Church, Scranton, PA. I also

recommended that if the church building is purchased, that the Standing Committee approve a church name of their choosing for this effort, according to the directives of Title IV, Canon 48, Section 5 of the national canons. This was also approved by the Committee.

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. Rev. Spadafora is often assisted by the Rev. John Campbell who has been a great blessing to the congregation, especially during Fr. Spadafora's lengthy hospitalization and recovery. At this point, Rev. Spadafora is willing to continue his Interim responsibilities at the church and the congregation is thankful to receive his ministry. Recently, the church built a new handicap ramp and is considering façade changes.

Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ – On April 22, 2023 I received an email from the Rev. Dr. David N. Greenwood advising me of his intended resignation from Covenant Chapel, Basking Ridge, NJ. I called and spoke with him at length. He felt called to "move to a new clergy model." In addition, there were "increasing retirements among those in the existing congregation that means Covenant Chapel can no longer afford a full-time rector." He advised the vestry of his resignation on May 6, 2023. On June 11, 2023 Bishop Jenkins and I visited the church and met with the vestry. The vestry was already aware of many of the procedures required of vacant parishes. We discussed an initial congregational evaluation I previously emailed to them. In addition, they possessed a copy of the Diocesan Policies for the Pastoral Search as well as the twenty-page parish self-study that was completed in 2018 following the resignation of the Rev. Gregory J. Miller. The self-study was distributed to vestry members for updating. The Very Rev. Jerry McLynn contacted me for permission to arrange for a regular preaching rotation involving Mr. Tom Davison, Mr. Chris Komline, Mr. Jonathan Martin and Dean McLynn who also serves the Eucharist on the Sunday he visits. A vestry meeting was held on October 18, 2023.

St. Paul's Church – Oreland, PA – This ministry continues under the capable and sacrificial leadership of the Rev. Canon Dr. Matthew P. Harrington who serves as Interim Vicar. 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 Rev. Aaron Cappucci assisted and Deacon Stephen Atchison assists Dean Harrington at St. Paul's Church. We thank the Rev. Matthew Maule who traveled to New York City several times a month to conduct services there when Canon Harrington was engaged at St. Paul's Church.

On May 8, 2023 I received a telephone call and email from Fr. Cappucci advising me that he had visited and accepted a subsequent call to St. Francis Church in the Diocese of Ft. Worth, TX in Austin, TX.

Following prayer and discussion, a plan was developed that would relieve Canon Harrington of his pastoral responsibilities at St. Alban's Church, New York, NY and allow him more time to

attend to the needs of St. Paul's Church and the Reformed Episcopal Seminary. This plan is described below under "Church Reports – St. Alban's Church – New York, NY". Canon and Mrs. Harrington have moved into the St. Paul's rectory.

A meeting of the provisional vestry was held on October 5, 2023. Two of the items discussed were the approval of a lease agreement in anticipation of the move of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary scheduled for July 1, 2024 and necessary renovations at St. Paul's Church rectory.

I made my episcopal visit to St. Paul's Church on Sunday, October 8, 2023 and met with the congregation following the service to advise them that the Seminary will be moving to the church in 2024 and that the provisional vestry has approved a lease. That meeting went well and the members of the congregation made helpful suggestions.

Church Reports

St. Alban's Church – New York, NY – This parish is in the process of renovating and meeting in a property located at 45 Tudor City Place in New York City. It sits between 1st & 2nd Avenues above E. 42nd Street across from a public park and in the shadow of the United Nations. The church negotiated a long-term lease and is meeting at the property during renovations.

On September 9, 2023 I met with the church vestry at the rectory. The groundwork had been laid by Canon Harrington to help prepare the vestry members for his departure as the resident rector. The vestry voted unanimously to call the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick as Associate Rector. A gift has been provided to provide his salary and pension benefits through March 31, 2024. Rev. Fitzpatrick had been present in the Philadelphia area over this past summer and I contacted him to encourage him to take the position if offered and he accepted. His official duties began on October 1, 2023. Canon Harrington has agreed to represent the church's interests and attend the Zoom meetings of the condominium association. I made my episcopal visit to the church the following day. I recommended the approval of the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick to serve as Associate Rector at St. Alban's Church to the Standing Committee and it was approved.

Good Shepherd Church – Harrisburg, PA – The church, which now meets in rented facilities in downtown Harrisburg, is working with the state of Pennsylvania to obtain an historical church property, called the Peace Church, in Hampden Township, Camp Hill, PA. I was invited to participate in a Zoom call on May 2, 2023 with Rev. McCarl, state officials and church representatives and have since made a site visit to the property.

Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA – At a vestry meeting held on October 3, 2023 it was reported by the Rev. Jason Holloway that the church had received a \$38,000 Pennsylvania food infrastructure grant to be used to refurbish the church kitchen facilities. The church was also approved for a matching grant of \$10,000 from the Matthew 25 program to be used to outfit a mobile ministry kit for community outreach. The Sunday School program has been restarted and worship services have seen increased attendance, including new people. The church is planning a Hallelujah Party for the end of October as well as a Christmas Breakfast. These efforts are part of the church's community outreach. There is a significant budget

shortfall in the After School Program that ministers to 25 students. Atonement Church has requested parish assistance in the amount of \$7,500 to sustain and expand this program which was approved by the Trustees. I received notification, at a vestry meeting on April 24, 2023, that Atonement Academy School will unfortunately be closed at the end of the school year due to enrollment and financial issues.

St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman – Philadelphia, PA (ESL Ministry)

An ESL 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. The classes have continued to grow and are now comprised of many different ethnicities. The Rev. David France, Dean Jason Patterson and I met by Zoom on October 18, 2023 to discuss how this effort can be moved to the next level of a church plant.

Faith Church – Baltimore, MD

The vestry of Faith Church has extended a call to the Rev. Deacon Billy Jenkins to serve as Assistant Rector. His call is contingent upon successfully sustaining the examination for presbyter's orders and will begin following his ordination to the priesthood and was previously approved by the Standing Committee in an email poll dated June 14, 2023. The parish has made a request to the Trustees to receive parish support in the amount of \$5,000 to assist with Deacon Jenkin's salary as he assumes more of the parish work which will allow Bishop Jenkins to devote more time to episcopal ministry. I recommended the approval of this request for parish assistance and it was approved by the Trustees.

The City of Baltimore is preparing to do sewer repairs that will benefit the church. The deed to Faith Church lists the NY & Philadelphia Synod as the property owner and is no longer recognized as a legal entity. Upon recommendation of the City, the Trustees voted to sell the property to the church for \$1 to accommodate the City's request so the needed work can be done.

Grace Church – Havre-de-Grace, MD

The Rev. Mark Specht emailed me, at the request of the vestry, to seek diocesan review of the church's finances and to make suggestions related to mission status and possible programs to help the church grow as the congregation ages. I requested an individual to review their financials and provide a report. He did so and concluded that the church is financially viable. The vestry held a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 10. I asked Dean Jason Patterson, who has experience with church revitalization at St. Mark's Church and elsewhere, to join the call. I have also invited Dean Jorgensen to join the call.

St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA

On August 14 I enjoyed lunch with Dean & Mrs. Patterson and the Rev. & Mrs. John Liu in King of Prussia, PA. We met to discuss the possibility of beginning a church plant of Chinese Christians in the Abington/Jenkintown area. Rev. Liu expressed a willingness to be mentored by Dean Patterson, anticipating ordination in the Reformed Episcopal Church. We also discussed

the possibility of beginning this new work at St. Mark's Church. Rev. Liu and his wife Lillian both speak English and have degrees from Westminster Theological Seminary. A first service was held at St. Mark's and 40 persons were present. In addition, several Chinese persons have attended the ESL classes at St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman Church in Philadelphia. We trust that God will continue to bless these efforts. Also, in mid-August, Dean Patterson and Mr. Ben Pierce visited a family in Collegeville, PA expressing interest in our church.

St. George's – Hamilton, ON

Bishop Jenkins and I are scheduled to make a joint visit to this Canadian church on November 12, 2023. The Rev. Paul Luth received his MDiv. degree from Concordia Lutheran Seminary on October 13, 2013 and is also scheduled to be Instituted at the time of the episcopal visitation. Bishop Jenkins and I are also scheduled to meet with the vestry when we visit.

Good Shepherd Church – South Easton, MA

On Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 6:00pm I consecrated the church building of this congregation. The Rev. Deacon Thomas Schmuck, the Very Rev. Eduardo A. Andrade and Bishop William Jenkins also read in the service. Archdeacon Jon W. Abboud delivered the homily. A lovely reception followed in the renovated downstairs. On the following day, I presided at the Eucharist and Bishop Jenkins confirmed Evalina Cortese, granddaughter of Dean & Mary Andrade. The Rt. Rev. Peter Manto, longtime friend of the Andrade family, was in attendance and I had previously asked him to deliver the homily at the Sunday service.

Services at the **St. Patrick's Church**, Norristown, PA have been temporarily suspended due to the illness of the Rev. Russell M. Buchanan.

Other Matters

Election of a Co-adjutor

At a meeting held on October 3, 2022, this 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

I concurred with this action of the Standing Committee.

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. The service bulletin will be officially included in the Standing Committee Secretary's records.

Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada

On February 9, 2023 I chaired the 31st diocesan Council of the Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada held by Zoom. The Rt. Rev. Walter Banek was invited to attend the beginning of the meeting that dealt with the Cuban Mission Fund. The participants had been previously advised that the Diocese, continuing as a diocese, was uncanonical by Reformed Episcopal and ACNA canons due to the fact that there has been only one church in the Diocese for many years, St. George's Anglican Church in Hamilton, Ontario. Therefore, a motion was introduced and passed to dissolve the Diocese and to change the name to the REC-ANiC Mission with the Canadian Revenue Agency to maintain the tax-exempt status of the Cuban Mission Fund which is administered in Canada. The dissolution would become effective once the legal arrangements have been approved by the Canadian Revenue Agency. The Treasurer, Mr. Nelson Buffett, made the inquiries and arrangements to accomplish this with Canadian government. Subsequently, several legal issues have arisen and I engaged Canon Harrington to help resolve any governmental impasses. Dean Robert Harrold also agreed to make inquiry to the government about the status of clerical orders once the Diocese is dissolved. He emailed me on April 1, 2023 and has received positive feedback that the dissolution will not negatively affect clerical credentials.

Reformed Episcopal Seminary

The Board of Directors meeting was held February 24, 2023 and three important decisions were made which affect theological education in the Diocese.

First, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches, following consultation with me and others, requested a paid year-long sabbatical from his teaching and administrative duties as President and Dean of the Seminary. He has served at the Seminary for 24 years, 11 of which were as Dean and four of which as President and Dean. In addition, he has assumed many other duties that are normally performed by several others in other seminaries and teaching an abnormally heavy course load, that have added to the burden of his responsibilities. He remained as President and Dean until June 12, 2023. He plans to return at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year as the chair of the Bishop Riches Chair of Anglican Theology.

Second, the Board unanimously voted to appoint the Rev. Dr. Matthew P. Harrington as Dean and President of the institution officially beginning on June 13, 2023. During the time of transition, Dr. Riches agreed to work alongside and support the new Administration and Bishop and submit to their judgment in the decision-making process.

Third, the Board established a committee to undertake a feasibility study to physically move the Seminary from its current location in Blue Bell, PA to the facilities of St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church in Oreland, PA. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Guy Webster, was empowered to chair and appoint the members of this Committee.

The Seminary Board of Director's met on May 12, 2023. The following was adopted:

- The 2023 degree graduates were approved.
- The official auditors were invited to attend the meeting to present their draft audit. It was noted that the report shows losses, much of which is due to negative market performance and governmental relief programs no longer available. Final approval of the audit was approved by the Board.
- The Relocation Task Force presented its feasibility report to the Board for adoption. It was recommended that the Seminary be relocated from its current location in Blue Bell, PA to the property of St. Paul's R. E. Church in Oreland, PA. Criteria need to be satisfied prior to the move. The recommendation was passed.

German Ordinands

The Rev. Canon John Boonzaaijer, the President of the Reformed Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions had made the request that the Standing Committee of our Diocese certify the clerical credentials of clergy in the Reformed Episcopal Church in Germany. The former AKD is no longer a diocese and needs a diocese to perform this task on their behalf. All examinations will be done by the Rt. Rev. Gerhard Meyer and his presbyters. Upon acknowledgment of the examination being sustained by the candidate and with the submission of our diocesan informational and doctrinal form titled, *NEMA Application for Postulancy, Ordination and Transfer*, I agreed to Canon Boonzaaijer's request. I have received two completed NEMA forms from Mr. Gregor Janik and Mr. Branislav Tot, found them to be in good order and recommended to the Standing Committee that these men be ordained to the diaconate and it was approved.

Risk Management

Bishop William Jenkins has been tasked with this effort by the Ordinary and is working with others to find a workable solution.

NEMA Youth Camps

The Committee on Young People's Work, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Dcn. Billy Jenkins, hosted the winter camp weekend for those in 6th-12th grades on February 17-29, 2023 at Rock Mountain Bible Camp in Susquehanna, PA. The theme was "Lessons in the Parable of the Good Samaritan". The summer camp, also at the Rock Mountain for grades 2-12, was held on July 23-29. The theme of the summer camp was, "Joy in the Journey: Knowing the Way of Christ by Walking in the Way of Christ". 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.

Summer Mission Project

The NEMA Summer Team Mission program, scheduled for July 30-August 5, 2023 at the Church of the Atonement in Philadelphia, was unfortunately canceled due to a lack of registrations. It is our hope that this program will be rescheduled for the summer of 2024.

Funerals & Memorial Services

Jan and I 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. I was invited to pronounce the Benediction.

Mrs. Beverly Jean Reese, beloved wife of Mr. Ron Reese for 51 years, was called home to be 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 I attended her funeral on February 11, 2023 at the Lambie Funeral Home in Philadelphia, PA. The Rev. David A. France was the Officiant.

I 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.

I 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.

Jan and I attended the Memorial Service for **Mr. William F. Kozma** on October 6, 2023 at Grace Church, Collingdale, PA. Bill was born in Ridley Park, PA on February 6, 1953 was welcomed into the church triumphant on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at Christiana Hospital in Wilmington, DE. He was a 1978 graduate of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary, a longtime member of Grace Church in Collingdale, PA and faithfully served in the church and as a trustee of the Diocese.

The **Rev. Daniel Olsen III**, 95, of Minneola, FL and formerly of Linwood, NJ, went home to be with his Lord on September 14, 2023. Rev. Olsen's early years were spent in the Atlantic City, NJ, area. He married Jean Molyneaux in 1951. Together, they served in Sudan, Zaire and Kenya with Africa Inland Mission International, 1953-1985. After overseas service, the Olsens settled in the Atlantic City area of New Jersey, where Rev. Olsen served as an accountant and pastor. The Olsens moved to the AIM Retirement Center in Minneola, FL in 2005, where he enjoyed a discipling ministry. Rev. Olsen is survived by his wife of 72 years, Jean, and other family members. A memorial service is scheduled to be held at 3 pm on Friday, November 10 at Scott Manor, 1000 Media Road in Minneola, FL.

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)

Sincere Appreciation

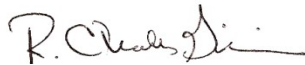
I would like to express appreciation to my dear wife **Jan** for her continued labor and commitment to me and the church. She has sacrificed so much for me and for all of us. Jan is a constant source of support and encouragement in every area of my life. In addition to her greeting card ministry, she continues a regular confidential ministry wives' prayer email to provide comfort for those in need and to keep the wives of clergy updated in their prayer lives. *An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life (Proverbs 31:10-12).*

I also thank the **Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr.** for his willingness to join in the challenges of Episcopal ministry in the Diocese. He has been a willing and helpful participant who has attended many meetings, performed visitations at my request and been willing to receive counsel and instruction all the while continuing as Rector of Faith Church, Baltimore, MD. Like Epaphras, *He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf (Colossians 1:7).*

Retirement

I notified the Standing Committee at their October 12, 2023 meeting that Lord willing, I plan to retire as the Ordinary of the Diocese on December 31, 2024. Lord willing, Bishop William A. Jenkins, Sr., the Coadjutor, will automatically succeed to the position of Ordinary on January 1, 2025 and be instituted in that office by our Presiding Bishop as his schedule will allow.

Respectfully submitted,



Bishop R. Charles Gillin