

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC

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

October 19, 2023

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

The Board of Trustees met three times since our last report at the 142nd Council of the Diocese. Trustee.

Bishop Gillin presided over these meetings.

Trustees Meeting NOVEMBER 3, 2022:

Election of Officers:

Bishop Gillin, President
Rev. Canon Bill Jenkins, Vice President
Mr. Ron Riches, Treasurer
Rev. David France, Secretary

Trustees Meeting MAY 16, 2022 (via Zoom):

1. The Meeting began with a reading from 2 Kings 6:14 and Prayer
2. The Minutes of the September 19, 2022 meeting were reviewed, no corrections were made, and approved unanimously.
3. Bishop Ordinary's report was presented.
 - a. A question was raised about the seminary moving to St. Paul's and it's effect on the trustees. Bishop Chuck said it should not have an immediate effect on the trustees, as the Seminary support has been reduced in recent years.
 - b. A question was raised about risk management. Bishop Chuck explained the need for monitoring for safety of church members, especially children. Bishop Chuck said that Bishop Bill will be in charge of restructuring the organization of risk management to make sure a workable plan is in place when he becomes Ordinary.
 - c. a question was asked about the church in Canada and dissolving its diocese, and Bishop Chuck made some explanation about why they have had a diocese, and their oversight of Cuba.
 - d. Report of the bishop was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Ron Riches presented his financial Report for the Diocese for the first 4 months of 2023. Noted was the Coadjutor expense and increased travel expenses. Ron does not expect the spending to continue for the travel expenses at the same level, neither does Bishop Chuck, as he is not expecting many ACNA trips. Ron explained some of the new lines on the budget for the Co-adjutor. Bishop Chuck said our Fall Budget meeting will examine Co-adjutor salary and how we plan to handle compensation.

The Treasure's Report was accepted unanimously.

5. Old Business: Farrell asked about the Bishop's Discretionary fund. Ron Riches made a clarification about the fund saying that there is not an official fund, but that needs can be met. Bishop Chuck also noted that the Bassinger Home fund is available to help meet Emergency Clergy needs.
6. New Business. Three items were on the Agenda
 - a. Bishop Chuck explained a plan to support an ESL ministry at St. Luke's and Bishop Hoffman Mission. The request is for \$2000 to support this Front Porch Ministry, with an additional \$500 if needed. The motion was moved and seconded. A question was raised about the duration of the grant and the Bishop clarified that it will only be for this coming year. It was adjusted to prorating it for 2023 and then put it in the 2024 budget for the full year. St. Mark's had been supporting this ministry. Motion passed.
 - b. Line item in report for Diaconal Training Funds. Bishop Chuck recommends funds be given to Faith Church, as Billy Jenkins has been called to the position of Associate Rector pending passing his Presbyter's Exam and ordination in the amount of \$350 per month. Motion passed.
 - c. Bishop Chuck discussed meeting from Atonement Vestry, with a letter from Atonement requesting support for the church, requesting \$25,000. Property inspectors (License and Inspection) have advised that Messiah Church has a great deal of repair, and the property is under the care of Atonement. Bishop Chuck recommends instead that Atonement sell the property, and that the trustees pay for the appraisal and help prepare it for sale. Bishop Bill asked if this was a gift or to be repaid out of the sale of the building. Bishop Chuck noted that the building has Looney Hoffman money that would need to be repaid, and that it could be paid back after the sale. It was moved that the trustees support the appraisal with the plan that it be repaid after the sale of the building. A question was raised about the idea floated that the property be rented as apartments which would make Atonement landlords instead of selling. Bishop Bill said the vestry was hoping a developer would come along with an eye to community-based development. Bishop Chuck stated he thinks it may be best to check first with Millage and Jason and Bishop Bill to kick the ideas around and see just how much work L&I

says needs to be done. This will be discussed again in September. Motion made, seconded and approved.

- d. Bishop Bill suggested a gift of \$150 to St. Mark's for their work on the consecration programs along with \$50 in materials. Motion was moved, seconded and approved.

7. Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved

8. The next meeting will be in September.

Trustees Meeting OCTOBER 9, 2023:

1. Meeting was opened by Bishop Gillin with a reading I Corinthians 1:4-8, the Lord's Prayer, a prayer for the Church, and a prayer for the night's meeting.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.
3. The President's Report:
 - a. The report was presented in written form prior to the meeting
 - b. A question was raised about the future of Messiah Church. Mr. Holloway responded that they are currently discerning a possible mission for the church. It has been professionally appraised as part of their discernment process. There is currently an ACNA Diocese of the Living Word congregation renting the building.
 - c. Bishop Gillin made a recommendation for parish assistance to The Church of the Atonement. Atonement has an afterschool program and have requested financial help to sustain and expand the program. Bishop Gillin suggested \$7500. A motion was made and seconded to approve this request.
 - d. Faith Church asked for salary assistance to pay an Assistant Pastor at Faith to help Bishop Jenkins with parish responsibilities freeing him up to handle his Episcopal duties. There was a motion made to approve this request. It was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - e. Faith Church also asked that title to their property be put in their name. At present the owner of record for the property is the New York and Philadelphia Synod. Faith Church is in the process of allowing the City of Baltimore use some of the parish property as a staging area for a major project in the area. The property must be in the parish's name to enter into this arrangement. It was recommended that the title be transferred in consideration of \$1. This action was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

- f. The Executive Committee considered a request for one year's forbearance on St. Alban's mortgage and payment of their diocesan tithe. They have been required to pay two substantial sums: one for renovation of the building façade and one for money that needs to be reimbursed to the current tenant. They proposed a repayment plan beginning in 2024. The Trustees agreed to this request and its effect on revenue is reflected in the 2024 Budget.
- g. Mr. Riches presented the Diocesan financial position followed by presentation of the budget. He noted that year-to-date parish tithes are down but that overall income is up \$18100.00.
- h. There was a motion to accept the proposed budget. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

There was a motion to receive the Bishop's Report. Unanimously approved.

4. The Bishop Coadjutor's Report was submitted in writing. There was a motion moved and seconded to accept the report. It was accepted unanimously.
5. The Treasurer's Report was included in the discussion of the President's Report. The Trustees offered Mr. Riches our sincere thanks for his hard work managing diocesan finances and preparing the budget.
6. Old Business: There was no Old Business
7. New Business: There was no New Business.
8. Next Meeting will be a brief organizational meeting at the end of Council.
9. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. France, Secretary