The Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church

Report of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church
to the 146th Council of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic
of the Reformed Episcopal Church

October 30, 2026

Mission

The mission and ministry of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary (RES) are integrally related to the work of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic (NEMA), the wider Reformed Episcopal Church (REC), and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). We strive "to train Christ's people to serve the flock of the Lord Jesus Christ through Biblical Anglican Worship, Example, and Discipleship as defined in the official standards of the Reformed Episcopal Church and the ACNA. Students are immersed in Scripture, the historical and ancient traditions of the church, worship, and doctrine, and an emphasis is placed on classical Anglicanism lived out in the world through worship, evangelism, and discipleship." The Seminary accepts students who desire to learn more about the truth of God's Word, the historic apostolic faith, and to be equipped to serve God in their communities and the world. Thus, we train and equip leaders for other orthodox Anglican jurisdictions and the wider Christian church, teaching our students to learn from, and work together, with students of different backgrounds and ecclesiastical traditions, but to always stand firm for the truth of the Gospel and God's inspired Word.

To that end, the Seminary offers two graduate degrees.

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is designed to provide comprehensive training in all aspects of Christian ministry, including Biblical studies and languages, theology, church history, preaching and teaching, pastoral counseling and administration, liturgics, and practical theology. The M.Div. is a rigorous program that is normally completed in three years of full-time study. It prepares graduates for many forms of ordained and lay ministry, including parish ministry, military or hospital chaplaincy, and Christian education or discipleship.

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) is a degree for those whose vocations lie more in the realms of teaching, research, and writing, or those who want to begin theological training but are discerning how they will put that training to use. The MATS program can be completed in two years of full-time study.

In addition to the two graduate degrees the Seminary offers the Licentiate in Theology for those interested in the diaconal ministry and the Certificate in Anglican Studies, which is designed for those interested in a obtaining a thorough grounding in Anglican history and theology.

Faculty

RES is privileged to have an accomplished and experienced faculty. At present, our core faculty consists of seven holders of doctoral degrees from universities in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia. Our professors hold PhDs (or their equivalent) from Westminster Theological Seminary, the University of Pennsylvania, Cambridge, Toronto, Oxford, Trinity College Dublin, and Moore Theological College (Sydney). More importantly, we have striven to ensure that our faculty remains firmly in the Anglican tradition and have recently welcomed several new members committed to this ethos to ensure that RES remains a bulwark of orthodox Anglican doctrine and practice.

One event of note this academic year is the planned retirement of the Reverend Professor Dale Crouthamel, who will be stepping down from full-time teaching in Spring 2027. Dr. Crouthamel has been a dedicated member of the faculty for more than forty years. We are planning a special celebration of his service to be held in May 2027, and will provide details about timing and events in due course.

Enrollment

Our student enrollment is on the rise. The Covid era presented a number of difficulties for higher education and the seminary certainly experienced its share of disruptions. During that period, student enrollment declined significantly with the result that RES was required to introduce a new online learning program as well as adapt its on-campus programs to meet the challenges of the new academic environment. We are grateful to all those in the RES administration, the diocesan leadership, alumni, and individual members of the NEMA diocese who supported the seminary during this time.

With the move to Saint Paul's completed in Summer 2026, our enrollment has now begun to recover substantially. The seminary has tried hard to preserve the on-campus experience. While we recognize that some students are simply not able to move to Philadelphia due to family, work, or other obligations, RES continues to believe that being on-campus is the best way to prepare for the ordained ministry, especially ministry in the Anglican tradition.

We are, therefore, pleased to report that enrollment has begun to recover from the Covid decline and that RES now enrolls a total of thirty students in both the on-line and on-campus programs. We currently have eleven MDiv and eight MATS students. Three students are pursuing the LTh and four are completing the Certificate in Anglican Studies. Four other students are enrolled as special students or visitors. We have admitted three new students to the MDiv program for entry in January 2027, which will bring our on-campus MDiv cohort to seven with two part-time certificate students.

A cursory view of enrollment progress indicates that the seminary will be graduating students for ministry in the Diocese and the wider REC and ACNA with some regularity over the next few years. We expect that beginning in Spring 2028, two-three students will be ready each year for ordination and curacy. These graduates will help fill some of the vacancies that parishes are currently experiencing as well as being prepared to plant new missions for the diocese.

Events

Over the past year, the seminary has hosted a number of events of interest to the academic and wider communities. In Fall 2025, we hosted a symposium entitled, "Anglicans and the American Revolution". We welcomed participants from universities and seminaries from the US, Canada, and England.

In Winter 2026, we welcomed the Right Reverend Ashley Null, Bishop of North Africa and research fellow at Oxford University. Dr. Null is also the foremost historian of the work of Thomas Cranmer and delivered the Kuehner Lecture to a large audience.

In Spring 2026, RES welcomed a wide range of academics and theologians to a symposium on "The Future of Global Anglicanism". Participants included the Reverend Dr. Gerry McDermott, distinguished professor of Anglican Studies at RES, the Right Reverend Munir Annis, Primate of the Anglican Province of Alexandria and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and the Reverend Dr George Westhaver, principal of Pusey House at Oxford, among others. The conference considered the future of GAFCON, the ACNA, and the wider Anglican communion. It was extremely well-attended by guests from our own diocese, other ACNA dioceses, and members of other Episcopal/Anglican denominations.

The Episcopal Recorder

Established in 1822, *The Episcopal Recorder* magazine was at the forefront of the evangelical movement in the United States throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For more than 160 years, *Episcopal Recorder* published articles on theology, practical ministry, church polity, missions, and worship. It was the voice of the REC bringing news and theological reflection to a diverse audience. The magazine continued to publish less regularly after 2000, when it finally ceased active distribution.

RES is pleased to begin publication of *The Episcopal Recorder* anew. Meredith Castor, RES librarian, will take over the position of editor. The first issue of the new series will be released in Fall 2026 and will contain the papers from the symposium on global Anglicanism. The second issue will come out in Spring 2027 and will have articles on "Bishop Cummins and the Prayer Book" along with other works on theology and Anglican history.

Sale of the Blue Bell Campus

The four buildings which make up the former Blue Bell campus have finally been sold. The sale allows the seminary to reduce its annual building costs (maintenance, utilities, and insurance). This provides an element of relief to the annual budget. The proceeds from the sales amounted to $1,123,769.30. Of this amount, the sum of $1 million was deposited into the seminary's investment account which had been entirely depleted. The remaining funds were used to pay off existing expenses and debt.

ATS

The Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Accreditation is necessary to have the authority to issue degrees under Pennsylvania law. In March 2026, an accreditation committee visited RES for its septennial evaluation. The ATS committee spent four days on campus and reviewed all aspects of the seminary's programs and performance.

During its visit, the committee expressed alarm at the state of the seminary's finances. By the Spring of 2026, RES's investment accounts had been entirely depleted. The seminary had no reserves and no funds beyond those raised through tuition, diocesan support, and gifts from alumni and member churches. In short, RES's financial position was (and remains) dire.

As a result, ATS agreed to re-accredit the seminary with the requirement of a public warning. A warning is a statement that expresses concerns about a school's finances and requires the affected school to post

the warning on its website. This warning currently applies to RES and is designed to focus attention on the need to provide greater financial stability for the institution.
The ATS committee expressed a number of specific concerns about RES's finances. Foremost among these was the fact that it had no reserves. In addition, while the committee was impressed with the level of support from the Trustees of the Diocese of the Northeast, it did note that alumni and individual giving to the seminary was below that which would have been expected of an institution that has been in existence for nearly 150 years. To be sure, RES is blessed to have a cadre of very dedicated and generous alumni and individual donors, but the overall number is small in relation to the total. For example, less than three percent of alumni have made a donation to RES in the past year. In addition, the ATS committee noted that the seminary has no active planned giving campaign designed to encourage alumni and friends to remember RES in their wills.

Ultimately, however, the ATS committee's greatest concern focused on the level of expenditure relative to income. Put simply, the seminary spends far more money than it takes in. This has caused RES to run substantial deficits and thus make substantial withdrawals on its investment accounts. For example, in the fiscal years 2022, RES ran a deficit in the range of $477,000 and a deficit of $420,000 in the 2023 fiscal year. In 2024, that number had declined to $360,000, but calls on the endowment continued until its total depletion in Spring 2026.

The sale of the Blue Bell properties in summer 2026 allowed the investment account to be replenished so that it now holds approximately $1 million. However, this is not "money in the bank." The investment account is not money that may be called upon to meet ordinary expenses any more than someone might just spend down the value of his house to buy groceries. The account's primary role is to generate earnings for use in operations and to provide for emergencies. It cannot be spent down to pay bills or make payroll. In short, the seminary is not sitting on $1 million in cash. It has an investment asset that will fill holes on an emergency basis and provide small amounts to supplement giving and tuition. Consequently, if we continue to make demands on the investment account, we will wind up in the same dire situation we are now. All we will have done is put the closure of the seminary off for a few years.

Given these circumstances, the ATS made clear that the seminary had to take drastic action to ensure its future financial stability. In response to these concerns, the seminary board undertook a comprehensive analysis of the budget and made significant changes to the seminary's operations. The result is that RES has implemented a balanced budget. It did not come without hardship and disappointment, but upon the completion of the first quarter, the seminary's income from donations and diocesan and church support is keeping apace with expenses.

Support

As noted above, we continue to be grateful for the support that the Diocese, its congregations, and members have given throughout the years. While we are not "out of the woods" yet, your support of the mission of the seminary is vital not only to the health and outreach of the REC, but to the many other churches and ministries where our students are able to serve because of the work of our Seminary. We hope that you will continue to remember the Seminary in your ongoing giving and estate planning.

We would like to note, in particular, that the seminary's annual giving campaign. This year, we hope to raise $100,000 for the general fund. Over the next few weeks, we will be contacting alumni, congregations, and individuals to make a donation in advance of the end of the tax year in December.

In addition, we ask that you actively encourage prospective students to consider RES for their theological education. Finally, we ask for your prayers. We know that it is only through God's grace that the Reformed Episcopal Seminary has endured thus far, and we hope that it is His will to preserve and strengthen the Seminary so that it may continue to serve the Diocese, the REC, and the wider Church for many years to come.

We are all so very grateful for your continued support of the seminary. All of us at RES believe very strongly in its mission. We are confident that RES has a very strong future. We are intent on ensuring that it remains a place where the authentic Gospel once delivered is being taught and preached, and that the historic Anglican tradition is being preserved. There is no other seminary out there doing that. In spite of the current difficulties, we revel in the work in which we are engaged and we are certain that with your continued generous help, RES will raise up faithful ministers to serve this diocese and the wider church for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted

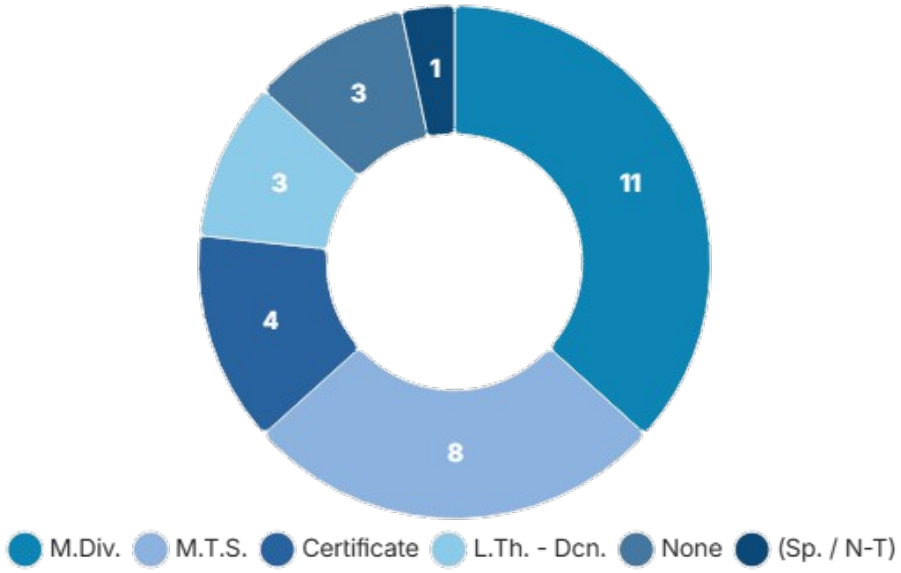
(The Reverend) M.P. Harrington
Dean

Reformed Episcopal Seminary

Student Enrollment

Fall 2026

Enrollment by Degree



Full- v Part-Time Enrollment

