

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

TO THE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC

Dear Brethren:

During this year meetings of the Standing Committee were held on May 19, 2022 and September 21, 2022.

The activities of the Rt. Rev R. Charles Gillin, Bishop Ordinary, including Episcopal visits, confirmations and other functions can be found in detail in his report presented to this Council.

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)

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. Bp. Gillin 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 and Mr. Tyrell Brinson 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.

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.

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.

St. Paul's Church – Orelan, PA – This ministry continues under the capable and sacrificial leadership of the Rev. Canon Dr. Matthew P. Harrington. 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.

Clerical Transfer

On March 9, 2022 Bp. Gillin 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 Bp. Gillin received and approved the application of the Rev. Earnest Nadeem to be received as presbyter in this Diocese. **The Standing Committee concurred with this action.**

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. A joint ordination service has been tentatively scheduled for Friday evening, June 10, 2022 at St. Mark's Church. Rev. Maule's advancement was previously approved by this Committee.

Ordinations

Rev. Aaron Tyler Cappucci & Rev. Matthew Gregory Maule - On June 24, 2022 at 5:00pm, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, Bp. Gillin ordained the Rev. Aaron Tyler Cappucci and the Rev.

Matthew Gregory Maule to the presbyterate. The Presenter was the Very 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.

Consecration

On August 13, 2022 Bp. Gillin and his wife, Jan Gillin, 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. Bp. Gillin 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.

Funerals

Watson Oliver Wooten, Jr.

Bp. Gillin and his wife Jan 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. Bp. Gillin participated in the interment at Moreland Memorial Cemetery in Parkville, MD.

Thomas Caldwell

Bp. Gillin 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. Bp. Gillin 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. Jason S. Patterson.

Rudolph B. Smith III

On Thursday March 3, 2022 Bp. Gillin and his wife Jan 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. Bp. Gillin 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 Higham

On July 18, 2022 Bp. Gillin and his wife Jan 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

Other Matters

Bp. Gillin requested that the Standing Committee vote to release St. Mary's Church from our diocesan oversight. **The Standing Committee approved this motion.**

Election of a Co-adjutor

Bp. Gillin laid before this Committee the need to elect a Co-adjutor for the Diocese. This Committee previously approved his recommendation. Bp. Gillin has provided the President with a time table. A sustainability form has been filed with the Archbishop's office and the ACNA College of Bishops have approved the election process. In addition, Presiding Bishop Ray Sutton has also given 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. 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 have been obtained and the Episcopal Search Committee has submitted its recommendation for action. The candidates are in the process of obtaining medical and psychological clearances.

At the September 21, 2022 Standing Committee meeting, the Standing Committee acknowledged the work of the Episcopal Search Committee by thankfully receiving its report.

At a meeting held on Monday, October 3, 2022 the Standing Committee voted to put forth the following individuals for episcopal election as Coadjutor at the 142nd Council of the Diocese of the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church on November 3-4, 2022 in Scranton, PA:

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

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