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

To the One Hundred Forty-fifth Council of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church
October 17, 2025

Dear Fathers and Brethren,
The Board of Trustees met three times since our last report at the 144th Council of the Diocese. Trustee meetings are held via Zoom, with the exception of the November meeting which is held at the site of our annual Diocesan Council.

**Trustees Meeting NOVEMBER 8, 2024:**

Bishop Gillin presided over this meeting.

Election of Officers:
Bishop Jenkins, President
Left Vacant, Vice President
Mr. Ron Riches, Treasurer
Rev. David France, Secretary

**Minutes of the Trustees of the Diocese, NEMA, May 12, 2025**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

2. Bishop Jenkins began with a reading from Exodus 32, the Lord's Prayer, and a prayer for the night's meeting.

3. Approval of the October 8, 2024 minutes
    a. Attendance at the October meeting was corrected. Farrell Lawrence was marked absent but was present.
    b. Bishop Gillin's name was misspelled in one of the comments.
    c. Subject to the corrections noted, the minutes were Approved

4. Bishop Jenkins' Report
    a. Bishop Bill noted some corrections to his report
    b. There was a discussion of the vacancies in the Diocese
    c. He asked for prayer for Rev. Frank Spadafora
    d. The search for a Rector for Emmanuel Somerville is underway
    e. Bishop Bill reported on several congregations (cf. Bishop's Report)
    f. Bishop Bill reported on the progress of the sale of Church of the Good Shepherd
    g. The Diocese has established a task force on Risk Management and parishes will be hearing more about this in the months ahead.

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

5. The Treasurer's Report
    a. Mr. Riches discussed the issues and trends affecting Diocesan assets
    b. Mr. Riches reported that the mortgage payments from All Saints was in arears at the end of March 2025
    c. His report also indicated that Covenant Presbyterian was behind, but noted that by the day of the meeting they were current
    d. He noted that Parish Tithes are behind where we were at this time last year and that revenue was behind budget expectations. He asked us to pray for more revenue.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

6. Old Business:

    Old Business items were previously discussed in other reports

7. New Business:
    a. Curacy Program for Church Revitalization needs 3 ministers to implement current Church plants. We need new vocations. We were asked to pray about this program going forward and for the resources to pay for it.
    b. Bishop Bill reported on a Group called Visitor Reach who helps churches who are ready to build and reach out to the community. Visitor Reach helps by formatting Facebook ads and other Social Media outreaches. They also curate them on 74 media platforms.
    c. It was noted that one position on the Executive Committee is still vacant. At election of officers at Council in the Fall, Bishop Chuck recommended we leave the Vice Presidency seat open until Bishop Jenkins takes over. Rev. Mike Blitz was nominated as Vice President. His nomination was seconded and approved unanimously.

8. Next Meeting will be a brief organizational meeting during Council. The next regular meeting will be on a date to be determined in May 2025.

9. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm.

10. Bishop Jenkins offered the closing prayer and pronounced the Benediction.

**Email Poll July 3, 2025**

Bishop Jenkins asked for Trustee approval of an additional $1500 for the Committee on Young People. It was anticipated that there could be a shortfall this year. An email poll of the Trustees resulted in 12 votes in favor, one non-response. Motion carried.

**Email Poll September 19, 2025**
Bishop Jenkins asked for Trustee approval to extend the stipend at Grace Church Collingdale for Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick. The motion read: "In our May 2024 meeting, we approved a $10,000 stipend to Grace Collingdale to assist with Rev. Fitzpatrick's salary. The stipend was to be paid in two $5,000 installments, one in 2024 and one in 2025. Bishop Jenkins has asked for approval to extend this assistance through 2026. He has asked that we approve another $10,000 to be dispersed in two $5,000 installments: one this year, and one in 2026." Motion Approved.

**Minutes of the Trustees of the Diocese, NEMA, October 16, 2025**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

2. Bishop Jenkins began with a reading from Luke 14, the Lord's Prayer, and a prayer for the night's meeting.

3. Approval of the May 12, 2025 minutes
    a. Attendance at the October meeting was corrected. Rev. Tom Davison was present.
    b. Misplaced space in the word "his" in Item A in the Bishop's Report.
    c. Subject to the corrections noted, the minutes were Approved

4. Bishop Jenkins' Report
    a. In an attempt to relieve the Very Rev, Dr, Matthew Harrington of an excessive amount of responsibility, the Bishop asked Rev. Greg Miller to serve as Vicar at St. Paul's and asking the provisional vestry to stipulate a package to begin January 1, 2026.
    b. Jesus the Good Shepherd has submitted papers to the Supreme Court of New York State for approval of the sale. This approval is required for the sale of any property owned by a non-profit entity. It is expected that the sale will be completed by the end of the year.
    c. There are several Church Plant opportunities: 1) Brunswick, MD, a group of 5 families have contacted NEMA for assistance with a Church plant; 2) Williamsport, PA, a group of families are expressing interest in establishing an Anglican testimony there. Lancaster, PA, 20 people attended a First Interest meeting and they are already looking for a place to meet; 4) Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Patterson reports the very beginnings of a possible plant here.
    d. Diocese of Central Eastern Canada—The Trustees were asked for their concurrence on closing this Diocese having now established a non-profit to replace it. This was necessary to continue the funding of the Cuban Mission work. It will also affect the designation (but not the standing) of the Rev. Robert Harrold who has been the longtime Dean of the Diocese.
    e. The bishop made 5 recommendations that were voted on as a group.
        i. Vote to recommend funding for selected postulants for ministry assessment by Always Forward ($100 each).

ii. Vote to pay for Church planting training as recommended, for Rev. Greg Miller, Rev. Ricky McCarl, and Rev. Dcn. Tom Davison ($700 each)
iii. Vote to expand funding for the background checks required in the safeguarding policy, particularly for parishes who can't afforf the fees.
iv. Vote for the possibility of a rent subsidy for the Lancaster Church Plant (up to $500/month).
v. Vote for the closing of the Diocese of Central and Eastern Canada, the dissolution of the Office of Dean of the Diocese, and folding St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church into NEMA.

There was a motion to receive the Bishop's Report and to approve his recommendations. It was unanimously approved.

5. The Treasurer's Report
    a. Mr. Riches presented the current status of the 2025 budget as well as the projected 2026 budget
    b. There was discussion of the effect of the stock market on Diocesan assets and that while there is optimism for 2026, the budget takes a more conservative approach to anticipated market returns.
    c. There was a brief discussion about the Benson Fund's restrictions.

    Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

6. Old Business:

    No Old Business

7. New Business:

    Ron Riches issued a "Fair warning" that because Microsoft will no longer support Windows 10, it will be necessary to purchase a new laptop. This purchase was authorized in 2022 and will be acted upon shortly.

8. Next Meeting will be a brief organizational meeting during Diocesan Council in November. The next regular meeting will be on a date to be determined in May 2026.

9. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

10. Bishop Jenkins offered the closing prayer and pronounced the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. France, Secretary