

REPORT OF THE BISHOP ORDINARY
To the 144th Council of the
Diocese of the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic
of the Reformed Episcopal Church
November 7, 2024

The following is a listing of my activities serving as Diocesan Bishop from October 19, 2023 to October 6, 2024.

Regular Episcopal Visits to Churches

10/29/23	St. Luke's Church – New Providence, NJ No confirmations
11/5/23	Faith Church – Baltimore, MD No confirmations
11/12/23	St. George's Anglican – Hamilton, ON One confirmation (Bishop Jenkins)
1/21/24	St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA Forty-two confirmations
4/28/24	Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA Six confirmations
5/5/24	Grace Church – Havre-de-Grace, MD No confirmations
5/19/24	Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ No Confirmations & Vestry
6/9/24	Church of Our Redeemer – Jersey City, NJ Two confirmations
6/30/24	St. Alban's – New York, NY Two confirmations
9/8/24	Grace Anglican Church – Scranton, PA Six confirmations and one Baptism
9/22/24	Good Shepherd Church – South Easton, MA No confirmations
10/6/24	St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA No confirmations

Other Church Visits

11/26/23	Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA
1/27/24	Faith Church – Baltimore, MD (William A. Jenkins, Jr. – Ordination)
2/4/24	Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA
4/7/24	St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA
4/14/24	New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ (Norris O. Gadsden – Ordination)
4/20/24	St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA (Benjamin P. Pearce – Ordination)
5/12/24	St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA
7/7/24	St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA

- 7/13/24 Church of Our Redeemer – Jersey City, NJ (Ordination of Rev. Chester Banks)
- 7/13/24 Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ (Ordination of Thomas Davison)

Vestry Meetings (All by Zoom)

- 11/28/23 New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ
- 1/16/24 Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA
- 1/22/24 Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ
- 2/7/24 Grace Church – Scranton, PA
- 2/8/24 St. Luke’s & Bishop Hoffman Church – Philadelphia, PA
- 4/9/24 New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ
- 4/16/24 St. Alban’s Church – New York, NY (Rector & Wardens)
- 5/10/24 St. Alban’s Church – New York, NY (Rector & Wardens)
- 6/4/24 Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ
- 7/16/24 St. Alban’s Church – New York, NY
- 7/30/24 Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ
- 9/11/24 Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ
- 9/18/24 Grace Anglican – Scranton, PA

Other Diocesan Meetings & Functions (All by Zoom)

- 11/2-3/23 Diocesan Council – Eldersburg, MD
- 1/22/24 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church
- 2/1-2/24 Clergy & Wives Retreat – Lancaster, PA
- 3/19/24 Good Shepherd Anglican – Harrisburg, PA/Peace Church
- 5/4/24 Women’s Day – St. Stephen’s Church – Eldersburg, MD
- 5/10/24 Clergy Meeting
- 5/14/24 Standing Committee
- 5/16/24 Examining Chaplains – Dr. Susan Regisford
- 5/29/24 Trustees
- 6/17/24 Examining Chaplains – Mr. Thomas Davison
- 7/11/24 Examining Chaplains – Potential clerical reception – Rev. Jacob Dell
- 8/2/24 Diocesan Leadership – Jesus the Good Shepherd Church
- 10/8/24 Trustees

Reformed Episcopal Seminary Meetings

- 12/18/23 Board of Directors (Zoom)
- 1/17/24 Charter & By-Laws Committee (Zoom)
- 1/23/24 Kuehner Seminar – Oreland, PA
- 1/26/24 Board of Directors (Zoom)
- 2/29-30/24 ATS – Dr. Stephen Graham – Pittsburgh, PA
- 3/14/24 Charter & By-Laws Committee (Zoom)
- 3/15/24 Board of Directors (Zoom)
- 4/4/24 Chaplaincy Discussion – Rev. Greg Miller (Zoom)
- 4/22/24 Charter & By-Laws Committee (Zoom)
- 4/26/24 Board of Directors (Zoom)

5/15/24 Rebranding (Zoom)
5/24/24 Board of Directors
6/1/24 Commencement – Oreland, PA
9/20/24 Board of Directors

Reformed Episcopal Church Meetings

12/15/23 General Committee (Zoom)
1/23/24 Council of Bishops (Zoom)
2/9/24 Council of Bishops (Zoom)
2/15-16/24 Consecration of Bishop John Boonzaaijer – Dallas, TX
3/21-22/24 Consecration of Bishop Charles Camlin – Dallas, TX
4/16/24 Standing Liturgical Commission (Zoom)
4/17/24 Council of Bishops (Zoom)
4/19/24 General Committee
6/3/24 Board of Foreign Missions
9/16/24 BFM – Cuban Mission Society
9/17/24 Council of Bishops
9/26/24 Publication Society and the Board of Pensions & Relief

ACNA Meetings

12/7/23 College of Bishops (Zoom)
5/9/24 College of Bishops (Zoom)
6/20-22/24 College of Bishops – Latrobe, PA

New Clerical Calls

On January 14, 2024, the vestry of St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA voted to call the **Rev. Justin M. Forsberg** as Assistant Rector of the Parish. The call was unanimously adopted at their congregational meeting on Sunday February 11, 2024. In early February of this year, the **Rev. Matthew G. Maule** was named Assistant Rector of St. Mark's Church in Rydal, PA. I have **approved** both of these calls.

Ordination Examinations

The Rev. Deacon William A. Jenkins, Jr. was examined by the Examining Chaplains for Presbyters orders on November 14, 2023. The examination was held by Zoom. Bishop William A. Jenkins, Sr. recused himself from the meeting. Rev. Jenkins sustained the examination and was recommended to the bishop for ordination.

Mr. Norris O. Gadsden was examined by the Examining Chaplains for Deacons orders on January 12, 2024. The examination was held by Zoom. Bishop William Jenkins was also on the examination call. Candidate Gadsden sustained the examination and was recommended to the bishop for ordination upon completing several follow-up items.

Mr. Benjamin P. Pearce was examined by the Examining Chaplains for Deacons orders on January 12, 2024. The examination was held by Zoom. Bishop William Jenkins and the Very

Rev. Jason S. Patterson were also on the examination call. Candidate Pearce sustained the examination and was recommended to the bishop for ordination.

The Rev. Chester Banks was examined by the Examining Chaplains on May 8, 2024. The examination was held by Zoom. Bishop William Jenkins and the Very Rev. Gerald S. McLynn were also on the examination call. Candidate Banks sustained the examination and was recommended to the bishop for reception as a Deacon and ordination to the Presbyterate. I intended to do this as permitted in Title I - Canon 10, Section 5 (a) *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.* I recommended to the Standing Committee that the Rev. Chester Banks be received on our clergy rolls as a Deacon and ordained Presbyter as per the recommendation of the Examining Chaplains.

Mr. Thomas J. Davison was examined by the Examining Chaplains to be ordained Deacon on June 17, 2024. He is a member of Covenant Chapel in Basking Ridge, NJ. The examination was held by Zoom. Bishop William Jenkins and the Very Rev. Gerald McLynn were also on the examination call. Candidate Davison sustained the examination and was recommended to the bishops for ordination to the diaconate.

Deaconess Examination

Dr. Susan H. D. Regisford was examined by the Examining Chaplains to be set apart as a Deaconess on May 16, 2024. She is a member of St. Alban's Church, New York, NY. The examination was held by Zoom. Bishop William Jenkins and the Rev. Canon Matthew P. Harrington were also on the examination call. Candidate Regisford sustained the examination and was recommended to the bishops to be set apart as a Deaconess.

Clerical Reception Request

The Rev. Jacob W. Dell – On July 11, 2024, the Rev. Jacob W. Dell was interviewed by the Examining Chaplains. Bishop Jenkins and I were also present on the Zoom call. Rev. Dell had made application to be received onto our clergy roles. He had submitted the necessary documentation, including a Declaration of Release from the Episcopal Church. Following the interview, I requested that the Chaplains take time to pray and consider Rev. Dell's request prior to rendering their decision on his reception. On August 2, 2024, the Rev. Justin M. Forsberg, Chairman, responded in writing that the Chaplains were not willing to recommend Rev. Dell's reception as a clergyman nor to license him to minister in our Diocese. Bishop Jenkins and I informed Rev. Dell of the Examining Chaplain's decision by telephone shortly thereafter.

Ordinations

Rev. Fr. William A. Jenkins, Jr. – On January 27, 2024 the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr. and I ordained the Rev. Deacon William A. Jenkins, Jr., Presbyter, at Faith Reformed Episcopal Church, Baltimore, MD. The ordinand was presented by the Very Rev. Dr. Eric W. Jorgensen. The Rev.

Justin M. Forsberg read the Litany. The Old Testament scripture was read by the Rev. Ricky McCarl. The Gospel was read by the Rev. Cedric R. Benner. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Shawn Riley, who also read the Epistle.

Rev. Deacon Norris O. Gadsden – On April 14, 2024 I ordained Mr. Norris O. Gadsden, Deacon, at the Church of our Redeemer in Jersey City, NJ. The ordinand was presented by the Very Rev. Gerald S. McLynn who also read the Holy Scriptures. The Rev. Chester R. Banks and the Rev. Justin M. Forsberg served as Litanists. I preached the homily.

Rev. Deacon Benjamin P. Pearce – On April 20, 2024 I ordained Mr. Benjamin P. Pearce, Deacon, at St. Mark's Church in Rydal, PA. The ordinand was presented by the Very Rev. Jason S. Patterson who also preached the homily. The Rev. Matthew G. Maule served as Litanist. The Holy Scriptures were read by Mr. Gregory Hoyt and Mr. David Szomor, both of whom serve as Postulants at St. Mark's Church.

Rev. Chester R. Banks - On July 13, 2024 at 1:00pm I ordained the Rev. Chester R. Banks, Presbyterian, at the Church of Our Redeemer in Jersey City, NJ. The candidate was presented by the Rev. Justin M. Forsberg. The homilist was the Very Rev. Gerald S. McLynn. Rev. Norris O. Gadsden read the Litany and the Gospel. The Epistle was read by Mr. Christopher Komline. The service of Holy Communion was read by the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr.

Mr. Thomas J. Davison - On July 13, 2024 at 6:00pm I ordained Mr. Thomas J. Davison, Deacon, at Covenant Chapel Reformed Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge, NJ. The candidate was presented by the Very Rev. Gerald S. McLynn who also read the Service of Holy Communion. The homilist was the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr. Mr. Christopher Komline read the Litany. The Epistle was read by Mr. Brian Ayres and the Gospel by Rev. Davison.

Clerical Transfers

Rev. Dcn. Vic Broberg - On November 7, 2023 I issued, at his request, a Letter Dimissory on behalf of the Rev. Deacon Vic Broberg to the Anglican Province of America overseen by the Rt. Rev. Chandler H. Jones.

Deaconess

Dr. Susan H. D. Regisford - On June 30, 2024 I set apart Dr. Susan H. D. Regisford as a Deaconess at St. Alban's Church in New York, NY. She was presented by the Rev. Canon Matthew P. Harrington who also assisted in the service. Other participants were the Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick and Dr. Dennis Wermert.

Postulants

Joshua Devers (St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD)
Rick Wilson (Grace Church - Havre-de-Grace, MD) - pending
Timothy Meadows (St. Alban's Church – New York, NY)
David Szomor (St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA) - transferred
Gregory Hoyt (St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA)

Matthew Trail (St. Stephen's Church – Eldersburg, MD)
Joshua Arp (Grace Church – Scranton, PA)
Keith Beardsworth (St. Matthew's Church – Havertown, PA)
Eric Landstrom (Grace Church – Collingdale, PA)

Licensed Lay Readers

I issued Lay Reader licenses to the following:

Mr. Charles Andrews - St. Mark's Church – Rydal, PA
Mr. Alex Ramirez - Faith Church – Baltimore, MD
Mr. Gordon Tiner – Emmanuel Church – Somerville, NJ
Mr. Juan Almodovar - Emmanuel Church – Somerville, NJ

Pastoral Vacancies

Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA – The Rev. Canon Dr. Jonathan Riches continues to serve as Interim Vicar and he has scheduled a number of visiting ministers to assist with services. We appreciate his continuing ministry to the people of this small, rural church located in Upper Buck County, PA.

Emmanuel Church – Somerville, NJ – On September 22, 2024, the Very Rev. Gerald S. McLynn announced his retirement to the congregation, effective December 31, 2024. Dean McLynn has served as rector of this parish for 16 years. The continuing debilitating effects of long Covid contributed to his decision. He and his wife Ginger are planning to retire to Smyrna, DE.

Grace Anglican Church (Mission) – Scranton, PA – This mission continues under the Bishop's oversight. Minister-in-Charge 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. The mission continues to grow by God's grace.

Both indoor and outdoor repair projects are planned. The church has scheduled another fall outreach conference titled "Shattering the Iron Crown: Recovering Humanity and Exercising Dominion in the Darkened World" on October 11-12, 2024.

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 under consideration for purchase. This site was under consideration as a church plant. The Grace Church vestry determined that the mission was unable to reasonably afford the property at this time.

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. 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 handicapped ramp and made significant façade changes. Rev. Spadafora has experienced significant medical and personal issues over the past year and Rev. Campbell has been shouldering more of the pastoral duties assisted at times in services by the Rev. Dcn. Steven Atchison who is assigned to St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA.

Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ – Following the resignation and departure of the Rev. David N. Greenwood I have been meeting with the vestry on a regular basis by Zoom or in person. 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. The Search Committee, headed by Mr. David Meharg, composed mission and vision statements for the church and completed the congregational self-study and census analysis. They have posted the notice of the pastoral vacancy on the NEMA, REC and ACNA websites and have received several responses. They have had several Zoom interviews with candidates and continue to evaluate these possibilities in light of their current financial situation. The Rev. Thomas J. Davison has recently been leading the worship services and shouldering most of the teaching responsibilities at the church. Rev. Davison and the vestry have come to an agreement on ministerial responsibilities and a financial package for the next six months and I appointed him as Minister-in-Charge on October 1, 2024 and asked the Standing Committee for its concurrence.

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.

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". Dean 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 and necessary renovations at St. Paul's Church rectory which are being done.

The Rev. Dcn. Steven Atchison, assigned to St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA has been recently engaged to assist Dean Harrington and the Rev. Dr. Dale H. Crouthamel. Dr. Crouthamel preaches and administers Holy Communion in Dean Harrington's absence when at St. Alban's Church or on R.E. Seminary business.

The next provisional vestry meeting is scheduled for mid-October.

Church Reports

Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA – The vestry of this mission has voted to sell the property of the Church of the Messiah, also in Germantown. The sale is in process. The Trustees have provided financial assistance in the interim. The mission has agreed to reimburse the Trustees once the Church of the Messiah property has been sold.

St. Alban’s Church – New York, NY – This parish has been 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 final renovations. The former church property has been leased to a school that caters to autistic children.

On September 9, 2023 I met with the church vestry at the rectory. The groundwork had been laid by the Rev. Canon Dr. Matthew 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. His official duties began on October 1, 2023. Canon Harrington has agreed to continue to represent the church’s interests and attend the Zoom meetings of the condominium association.

On July 7, 2024 the church held a farewell for the Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick. He had agreed to move back to the Collingdale, PA area to assist the Rev. Shawn Riley in ministry at Grace Church. Rev. Fitzpatrick had served this parish for many years prior to moving to Ohio. 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. He visits the first Sunday of each month to preside at Holy Communion.

The church is seeking alternative funding so that their mortgage loan to the Diocese can be paid in full.

Good Shepherd Church – Harrisburg, PA – The church, which now meets in rented facilities in downtown Harrisburg, was working with the state of Pennsylvania to obtain an historical church property, called the Peace Church, in Hampden Township, Camp Hill, PA. The property would have been granted to Good Shepherd Church by the state of Pennsylvania. I joined Rev. McCarl, on a regular basis on Microsoft calls with state officials. This effort was progressing until opposition from the those associated with the church’s historical society raised opposition to the plan and the legislative effort was stalled. The state of Pennsylvania has decided to enter into a settlement with the church and will reimburse all of their expenses related to the Peace Church totaling approximately \$15,000. The mission is now considering another church property option in Carlisle, PA.

St. Luke’s & Bishop Hoffman – Philadelphia, PA

St. Luke’s & Bishop Hoffman Church continues under the capable and sacrificial leadership of the Rev. David A. France, Vicar. An ESL program is being held regularly 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 averaging more than 30 weekly participants. In addition, a Chinese community outreach effort meets regularly at the church under the leadership of the Rev. John Liu. Significant repair projects have been completed at the church, many of them with the assistance of the Chinese congregation.

New Redeemer Church – Jersey City, NJ – The Search Committee recommended the call of the Rev. Chester Banks to the vestry. At a meeting held on October 4, 2023, the vestry voted to extend a call to Rev. Chester Banks to serve as the minister of New Redeemer Church. Following his examination and ordination to the presbyterate on July 13, 2024, he was licensed by me to serve the parish. It is anticipated that Rev. Banks will be Instituted as Rector in 2025.

St. Mark’s Church – Rydal, PA

As previously reported, the Chinese church plant is progressing under the leadership of Dean Jason Paterson and the Rev. John Liu. Dean Paterson continues to mentor Rev. Liu in the Anglican Way in preparation for his ordination in the Reformed Episcopal Church. On Saturday, January 20, Dean Patterson baptized eighteen candidates, most of whom were adults. On Sunday, January 21 forty-two candidates for confirmation were presented to me for the laying on of hands. Twelve of these candidates were from the congregation of St. Mark’s Church and thirty were from the Chinese congregation. The church has completed a capital project to construct a new entrance and welcome suite off of the parking lot. It is close to obtaining all the necessary clearances.

St. Timothy’s Anglican Mission - I received a communication from the Rev. Michael J. Carr and his wife Diane expressing concern about the lack of growth of St. Timothy’s Mission in Mt. Laurel, NJ. We shared in two telephone calls with Bishop Jenkins to discuss their concerns and request for a seminary student to assist in ministry. I followed up with calls to the Wardens and Bishop Jenkins and we continue to evaluate the mission’s ministry and the affordability of a student assistant.

Grace Church – Havre-de-Grace, MD – The Rev. Dr. Mark A. Specht requested that Bishop Jenkins and I join their vestry for a Zoom call to discuss the church and its ministry. Of particular interest was parish growth and outreach. Following discussion and counsel, the rector and vestry will continue to discuss and plan for the future.

Jesus the Good Shepherd – Brooklyn, NY – Bishop Jenkins and I received notification that due to health reasons; the Rev. Eugene Phipps is no longer able to conduct services at the church and has announced his retirement. The Rev. Dcn. Carl Wegner was contacted and at my request agreed to travel to the church on a weekly basis to conduct services. He conducted his first service on September 22, 2024.

Over the past four years I visited the church twice, Archdeacon Jon Abboud, once by my request, and this year by Bishop Bill Jenkins. Twenty-one persons were in attendance for the service for this year’s Episcopal visit. Bishop Jenkins met with Fr. Phipps and Michael Williams

following the service and was told that they were barely meeting their monthly financial obligations. They do not have a vestry (one member left in her 90s) and no one can recall when their last congregational meeting was held.

The church is facing financial difficulties due to a dwindling, older congregation and a significant mortgage on the church property. In September 2020, they took out a 20-year mortgage for \$400,000. With a monthly payment of close to \$3,000, they owe approximately \$256,000 on the note.

On August 2, following an exchange of ideas and prayer, Archdeacon Jon Abboud, Bishop Jenkins and I met by Zoom to discuss possible ways forward. Pastorally, we would like to see the church continue. Whether that can be accomplished or not, the following still needs to happen in the short term:

1. The first step is to advise the church they are in mission status. I requested the Standing Committee to concur.
2. I will appoint a provisional vestry.
3. Since the congregation can barely afford a mortgage, I will suggest the sale of the church property to the provisional vestry. Proceeds from that sale will be used for the rental of another meeting space and to pay a new rector or assigned clergy. In addition, I will request parish assistance money, from the Trustees for the short term, which will be paid back in full after the sale of the property.
4. Since I committed the church to Bishop Jenkin's oversight, we will issue a call for a time of committed prayer asking God to provide Fr. Phipps' replacement. It may be a local, bi-vocational or retired priest. It is noted that Rev. Phipps has not collected a salary while serving as the priest of this parish.

Reformed Episcopal Seminary

Reformed Episcopal Seminary has gone through many changes in 2023-2024. It was previously reported that the Board had granted the Rev. Cn. Dr. Jonathan S. Riches, President and Dean, a sabbatical from August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024, with full salary and benefits at its meeting on February 27, 2023. Dean Riches has had a distinguished career at RES serving for 24 years, eleven of which were as Dean and of those eleven, four years as President and Dean. Significant progress was made under his leadership in areas of accreditation, the new Master of Arts in Theology degree and financial aid. The Rev. Canon Dr. Matthew P. Harrington was elected by the Board to serve as President and Dean on June 13, 2023. On July 5, 2024, Dr. Riches tendered his resignation to the Board, from all positions, effective August 5, 2024. Dean Harrington will present a Resolution, in honor of Dr. Riches, to the diocesan Council.

The Board of Directors voted to move the Seminary campus from Blue Bell, PA to the property of St. Paul's Church, Oreland, PA. Dean Harrington will provide further details in his report to the upcoming diocesan Council.

Other Matters

Committee on Young People's Work

The Winter Camp for 6th-12th graders was held at Rock Mountain Bible Camp in Susquehanna, PA on March 15-17, 2024. The speaker was the Rev. Jason Holloway who spoke on "Following God's Call: Abraham, Jonah, Esther and Mary". The Summer Camp was held on July 21-27 at Rock Mountain Camp in Susquehanna, PA. This year's camp was judged to be very successful as many young people were impacted for Christ. Over 60 children and 15 staff members and counselors were in attendance. The camp theme was "Created in the Image of God". Our thanks to the Rev. William A. Jenkins, Jr., the Committee on Young People's Work and camp staff for their continued commitment to the spiritual encouragement of our young people.

Risk Management

Bishop Jenkins has been tasked with this effort by the Ordinary. Much has been already accomplished by the Task Force and by Standing Committee review. It is a significant effort that requires much careful planning. The ACNA has mandated that all churches have these policies in place by the end of 2025.

Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada

This Diocese was previously committed to the care of the NEMA Diocese. Unfortunately, there is but one church, St. George's Parish in Hamilton, ON, in the Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada. As such, an ecclesiastical diocese does not exist under Reformed Episcopal or ACNA canons. It was my intention to dissolve the Diocese, however, as a result of the Cuban Mission Fund being registered under the Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada, any attempt to dissolve it would endanger its non-profit status with the Canadian Revenue Agency. A Zoom meeting was held on September 16, 2024 with Bishops Walter Banek and John Boonzaaijer, Canon Barkley Mayo, Canon Jason Grote, Canon Matthew Harrington and me. In the interest of continued good and proper support of our Cuban churches we agreed that no action would be taken to dissolve the Canadian Diocese until a new non-profit registration, to replace the Cuban Mission Fund, was filed with and recognized by the Canadian Revenue Agency. It is expected to be issued soon.

Memorial Service

Gladys Crouthamel – On March 13, 2024, at St. Paul's Church, Oreland, PA, I participated in the Memorial Service for Mrs. Gladys Crouthamel, long-time member of St. Paul's Church and beloved wife of the Rev. Dr. Dale H. Crouthamel. She was called home to be with the Savior on February 29, 2024. I was privileged to deliver the homily. The Rev. Canon Dr. Matthew P. Harrington served as officiant.

Funeral

Rachel Rosenberg - On July 3, 2024 Jan and I, accompanied by Bishop and Mrs. Jenkins, attended the funeral service for Mrs. Rachel Rosenberg at Calvary Chapel in Philadelphia, PA. Rachel, daughter of the Rev. & Mrs. Frank Spadafora, was called home to be with the Lord on June 25, 2024 following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality; then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:53-57)

Episcopal Transition

The Standing Committee was notified that Episcopal visits were temporarily put on hold until Bishop Jenkin's medical prognosis was provided by his doctor in late February, 2024. He had been given clearance to resume a near normal schedule. Visitations to our 24 parishes and missions were evenly split between Bishops Gillin and Jenkins this year. In addition, Bishop Jenkins has been assigned episcopal oversight over the following eight churches, which are also on his visitation schedule as per General Council Canon 11, Section 3 (a) - *The duties assigned by the Bishop to the Bishop Coadjutor in any Diocese may be enlarged by mutual consent whenever the Bishop of the Diocese may desire to assign such additional duties to the Bishop Coadjutor.*

- St. George – Hamilton, ON
- Jesus the Good Shepherd – Brooklyn, NY
- St. Luke's – New Providence, NJ
- Church of the Atonement – Philadelphia, PA
- Emmanuel Church – Pipersville, PA
- St. Luke's & Bishop Hoffman – Philadelphia, PA
- Faith Church – Baltimore, MD
- St. Peter's Church – Elkton, MD

The churches were notified that Bishop Jenkins is the first contact for any needs that may arise for these eight churches.

Sincere Appreciation

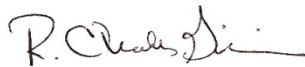
Once again, I would like to express appreciation to my dear wife **Jan** for her continued labor and commitment to me and the church. She has sacrificed so much for me and for all of us. Jan is a constant source of support and encouragement in every area of my life. In addition to her greeting card ministry, 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.

I also thank the **Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr.** for his willingness to join in the challenges of Episcopal ministry in the Diocese and shoulder more of the burden. He has been a willing and

helpful participant who has attended many meetings, scheduled one-half of the visitations at my request and been willing to receive counsel and instruction all the while continuing as Rector of Faith Church, Baltimore, MD.

On September 10, 2024 Bishop Jenkins underwent successful open-heart surgery at Johns-Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD to replace a heart valve and repair an aortic aneurism. He was recovering well at home until a complication required two more procedures on October 3 & 4, 2024 and another week-long hospital stay. As of the filing of this report, he has been released from the hospital to home to continue his recovery. We praise the Lord for His healing mercy. If possible, Bishop Jenkins is scheduled to be instituted as the next bishop of the Diocese at the opening service of Holy Communion at the next Council on November 7, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Charles Gillin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop R. Charles Gillin