

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

To the One Hundred Forty-fourth Council of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church
October 14, 2024

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

The Board of Trustees met three times since our last report at the 143rd 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.

Bishop Gillin presided over these meetings.

Trustees Meeting NOVEMBER 3, 2023:

Election of Officers:

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

Minutes of the Trustees of the Diocese, NEMA, May 29, 2024 (via Zoom)

1. Meeting was opened by Bishop Gillin with a reading St. John 3 (Trinity Lesson), 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. Bishop Gillin made one recommendation that the Trustees approve a stipend for Rev. Mike Fitzpatrick at Grace Collingdale. He requested \$10,000, half to be paid in 2024 and half to be paid in 2025.
 - c. St. Albans: Rev. Matt Harrington remains Rector and will do Communion one Sunday per month. Tim Meadows, a postulant and seminarian, and Dennis Wemert will fill in the remaining Sundays each month. Their stipend will come out of the Parish Development Fund. Rev. Blitz made a motion to approve the stipend, Mr. Lawrence seconded. Approved unanimously.

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

4. The Bishop Coadjutor's Report was submitted in writing. A question was raised asking if the current budget for the bishop coadjutor is working as planned? Is the \$2300/month sufficient? Does it need to be adjusted? Bishop Jenkins recommended that we stay the

course for now and review the budget at the Fall Trustee's Meeting. There was a motion moved and seconded to accept Bishop Jenkins recommendation and his report. It was accepted unanimously.

5. The Treasurer's Report:

- a. Mr. Riches noted that stock market fluctuations had affected our account balances.
- b. He noted that we are operating very close to budget
- c. The stipend for Grace Collingdale was added to the Program and Ministry expense line.
- d. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

6. Old Business:

a. Messiah Church

- i. There was a discussion of the status of the Messiah Church property
- ii. Mr. Holloway reported that the Diocese of the Living Word is no longer renting the building and that they want to sell the building.
- iii. The building is a financial burden to Atonement and they are meeting with a realtor.

b. Church of the Atonement

- i. Their after-school program is doing well, but there is concern about affording staff for next year.
- ii. It was suggested that the Trustees hold a Zoom meeting to discuss and review documentation of Atonement/Messiah/After-School Program in preparation for the Fall Trustee's meeting. Bishop Jenkins will call the meeting.

c. The trustees were encouraged to pray for a quick sale.

7. New Business: There was no New Business.

8. Next Meeting will be determined.

9. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

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

Minutes of the Trustees of the Diocese, NEMA, October 8, 2024 (via Zoom)

1. Meeting was opened by Bishop Gillin with a reading Psalm 4, the Lord's Prayer, the Collect for Trinity 19, and a prayer for the night's meeting.
2. Bishop Gillin began by giving us an update on Bishop Jenkins. Bishop Bill is well, he is off oxygen, and is resting comfortably. If all continues well, he will be discharged at the end of the week.
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.
4. There was a question about the financial status of Church of the Atonement. It was called by Bishop Jenkins to help sustain Atonement by documenting their financial position in anticipation of the Fall Trustee meeting.

Before moving into his report, Bishop Gillin asked Mr. Holloway for a status report on the sale of The Messiah Church building. Mr. Holloway reported that the building was under contract, but the buyers determined that the building required more repairs than they were able to undertake and so withdrew their offer. He reported that there have been several additional showings of the building in the last two weeks. They are waiting and praying for another offer.

5. The President's Report:
 - a. The report was presented in written form prior to the meeting
 - b. The Bishop made one recommendation in regard to Jesus the Good Shepherd Church in Brooklyn. The Bishops 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 has agreed to travel to the church on a weekly basis to conduct services.

Because the church is experiencing financial difficulties and a dwindling congregation, upon agreement of the Standing Committee, the Bishop will declare them a missionary parish, appoint a provisional vestry, and recommend that the provisional vestry sell the building. The proceeds of the sale will be used to rent another meeting place and to pay a new rector or assigned clergy.

In the meantime, the Bishop is requesting that the Trustees authorize payment of \$500 per service to Rev. Wegner. This payment includes the standard amount for pulpit supply as well as the cost of travel to Brooklyn. These costs will be reimbursed to the Diocese from the proceeds of the sale of the building.

This recommendation will be handled as part of the 2025 Budget.

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

6. The Bishop Coadjutor's Report was deferred until a later date.
7. The Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Mr. Riches noted the effect of the current arrangements with St. Alban's and how they affect the budget. These arrangements are in effect until June of 2026. St. Alban's is in the process of restructuring their debt which when implemented will payoff their loans from and obligations to the Diocese.
 - b. The 2025 budget was adjusted to include the projected support for Rev. Wegner.
 - c. The line item for Bishop Jenkins' will remain open until his needs are clear.
 - d. The Diocesan contribution to the Reformed Episcopal Seminary was set at \$130,000

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

8. Old Business:

Church of the Atonement was updated at the beginning of the meeting.

9. New Business:

- a. Bishop Gillin reported that the Very Rev. Gerald McLynn is retiring effective December 31, 2024. The Bishop is now looking for interims to cover Emmanuel Church.
 - b. St. Alban's has already been discussed.
10. 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.
11. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.
12. Bishop Gillin offered the closing prayer and pronounced the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. France, Secretary