

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

TO THE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC OF THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Brethren:

During this year meetings of the Standing Committee were held on May 14, 2024, and October 10, 2024.

The activities of the Rt. Rev R. Charles Gillin, Bishop Ordinary, and the Rt. Rev. William A. Jenkins, Sr., Bishop Co-Adjutor, including Episcopal visits, confirmations and other functions can be found in detail in their reports presented to this Council.

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)

CANONICAL EXAMINATIONS/RECEPTIONS/TRANSFERS

Ordination Exams

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 Jenkins 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. Bp. Gillin recommends 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.

The Standing Committee approved this motion.

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 bishop for ordination to the diaconate.

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 Associate 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. Bp. Gillin has approved both of these calls.

The Standing Committee concurred with these actions.

Ordinations

Rev. Fr. William A. Jenkins, Jr. – On January 27, 2024, the Bp. William A. Jenkins, Sr. and Bp. Gillin 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, Bp. Gillin 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. Bp. Gillin preached the homily.

Rev. Deacon Benjamin P. Pearce – On April 20, 2024, Bp. Gillin 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 1:00 pm. Bp. Gillin 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 Bp. Gillin 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, Bp. Gillin 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.

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 ministry to the people of this parish in Upper Bucks 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.

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. Rev. Spadafora has experience significant medical issues over the past year and Rev. Campbell has been shouldering more of the pastoral duties assisted in services by the Rev. Dcn. Steven Atchison who is assigned to St. Matthew's Church, Havertown, PA.

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. 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.

Covenant Chapel – Basking Ridge, NJ – Following the resignation and departure of the Rev. David N. Greenwood Bp. Gillin has been meeting with the vestry on a regular basis by Zoom or in person. The Very Rev. Jerry McLynn contacted Bp. Gillin 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 Bp. Gillin appointed him as Minister-in-Charge on October 1, 2024 and asks the Committee for its concurrence. **The Standing Committee concurs with this action.**

Jesus the Good Shepherd Church- Brooklyn, NY- Bishop Gillin and Bishop Jenkins 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 Bp. Gillin's request agreed to travel to the church on a weekly basis to conduct services. He conducted his first service on September 22, 2024. On August 2, 2024, following an exchange of ideas and prayer, Archdeacon Jon Abboud, Bishop Gillin and Bishop Jenkins met by Zoom to discuss possible ways forward. Pastorally, they would like to see the church continue. They discussed short-range goals to help sustain the life of this congregation. The first step in this process is that Jesus the Good Shepherd Church- Brooklyn, NY be designated as a mission parish. Bp. Gillin requests the Standing Committee to concur. **The Standing Committee concurs with this action.**

Deaconess Exam

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.

Dr. Susan H. D. Regisford - On June 30, 2024, Bp. Gillin 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.

Funerals/Memorial Services

William Kozma – On October 6, 2023, at Grace Church, Collingdale, PA, Bp. Gillin participated in the Memorial Service for Mr. William Kozma, longtime member of Grace Church, diocesan Trustee and frequent delegate to diocesan Councils. He was also a 1978

graduate of Reformed Episcopal Seminary. Bill was called home to be with the Savior on September 7, 2023. The Rev. Shawn Riley served as officiant and delivered the homily.

Gladys Crouthamel – On March 13, 2024, at St. Paul's Church, Oreland, PA, Bp. Gillin 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. Bp. Gillin was privileged to deliver the homily. The Rev. Canon Dr. Matthew P. Harrington served as officiant.

Rachel Rosenberg - On July 3, 2024, Bp. and Mrs. Gillin, 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.

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