

DIOCESE OF MID-AMERICA

The Report of Bishop Ray R. Sutton Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Mid-America

To: The 58th General Council

Dear Brethren,

I submit this summary of my activities in the work of the Episcopate since the 57th General Council held in June of 2023. The details of those labors are recorded in full in the annual Journals of the DMA Synod.

Summary: June 2023 – June 2026:

- Episcopal Visits: 63
- Confirmations: 310
- Deaconess Setting Apart: 1
- Diaconal Ordinations: 7
- Presbyterial Ordinations: 5
- Admission of Canons: 3
- Admission of Deans: 1
- Installation of Rectors: 5
- Installation of Bishops: 2
- Episcopal Consecrations: 3
- Church Consecrations: 4

Summary of Episcopal Reports to the DMA by year:

June-December 2023

Since the last General Council in June through the close of 2023, I made seventeen Episcopal visitations to the parishes and missions of our diocese. During these visitations, one-hundred thirty persons were presented for the laying on of hands in the ancient rite of Confirmation. One man was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons, two to the Sacred Order of Priests, and two rectors were formally instituted into their cures. I also had the privilege of presiding at one wedding and one funeral. Beyond these Episcopal and sacramental duties, I participated in thirty-two additional diocesan and parish meetings, gatherings, and events, and taught a course for Cranmer Theological House as part of our ongoing work of clergy formation and theological education. By God's grace, our diocese has experienced a season of significant growth and development. Two new missions were established in Colorado Springs, both of which rapidly matured to the point of calling full-time priests. Christian education initiatives likewise continued to expand, including the establishment of new parish schools and micro-colleges in Michigan, California, and Texas. To strengthen support for our western congregations, a new Dean was appointed for the Convocation and Deanery of the West. In addition to my diocesan responsibilities, I attended eight denominational and twelve provincial meetings and events. I traveled to Croatia, Serbia, Latvia, and the Vatican, and continued ecumenical efforts through the ACNA with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church in America, the North American Lutheran Church, Messianic Jewish leaders, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia.

2024

During 2024 I conducted twenty-one Episcopal visitations to the parishes and missions of our diocese, during which sixty-three persons received the laying on of hands in the ancient rite of Confirmation. It was my honor and privilege to serve as Consecrator at the consecration of two of our men, the Rt. Rev. John P. Boonzaaijer and the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Camlin, to the Sacred Order of Bishops in the early spring. Two men were ordained to the Presbyterate, and one to the Diaconate. In addition, one Rector was instituted into his cure, one Canon was formally admitted, and two churches were consecrated. I participated in sixty-two additional diocesan and parish meetings and gatherings throughout the year. I taught two courses at Cranmer Theological House, and spoke at several seminaries and conferences. I presided at one wedding and one funeral. By God's grace, our diocese has continued to experience a season of encouraging growth and strengthening. All five deaneries held successful annual clericus retreats. New missions and extension works continued to develop, an additional parish was received into diocesan membership, and a congregation was successfully replanted. Several clergymen transferred into the diocese from other Anglican jurisdictions, further enriching the mission and ministry of the Church. Thanks be to God, the Diocese of Mid-America now includes forty-four parishes, missions, and extension works; five active bishops and two retired bishops; seventy-six presbyters; eighteen deacons; six deaconesses; sixteen postulants; and seven deaconess candidates. Cranmer Theological House presently serves eighty students in its various programs, and four parishes are either operating or actively supporting parochial schools within their congregations. Beyond these Episcopal and sacramental duties, I participated in eleven denominational and twenty provincial gatherings, including the Investiture of the Most Rev. Steve Wood in the Anglican Church in North America, the Free Church of England Convocation in the United Kingdom, and ecumenical work in the Philippines.

2025

At the outset of the year, our Church mourned the passing of the former Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Leonard W. Riches, who departed this life on December 29, 2024. His funeral was held at Emmanuel Anglican Church on January 11, 2025, where clergy, family, and friends gathered to commend him to Almighty God and to give thanks for his faithful ministry and steadfast witness to the Gospel. Due to severe winter weather and the cancellation of my flight, I was regrettably unable to attend his homegoing service. We continue to give thanks for his many years of devoted service to Christ and His Church, praying that he may rest in peace and rise in glory. Within the life of the diocese, I conducted twenty Episcopal visitations to diocesan parishes and missions, administering the ancient rite of Confirmation to seventy individuals. The Lord blessed our ministry with the ordination of five men to the Sacred Order of Deacons and one to the Sacred Order of Priests. In June, it was my distinct joy and privilege to serve as Chief Consecrator for the episcopal consecration of the Rt. Rev. Jason R. Grote. Throughout the year, I also consecrated two churches, set apart one woman as a Deaconess, instituted two Rectors, and admitted two Canons and one Dean, baptized my granddaughter and officiated at one wedding. I participated in the funeral of my dear brother, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Alphonza Gadsden, Sr., former Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Southeast. Beyond our diocese work, in June I participated in the installation of the Rt. Rev. William Jenkins, Sr. as Ordinary of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. I also traveled internationally to attend the investiture of the Most Rev. Rinalds Grants, Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia. Closer to home, I made visits to three parishes, attended some fifty diocesan meetings and events, taught three Cranmer Theological House courses, fulfilled eight speaking engagements, and participated in sixteen denominational and fifty-one provincial meetings and events.

January-June 12, 2026

Moving into the final year of the triennium, I am pleased to submit this report summarizing my Episcopal ministry for the first part of 2026. Throughout the diocese, I have conducted five Episcopal visits, administered the ancient rite of Confirmation to forty-seven persons, and baptized one infant. My responsibilities included active participation in thirteen diocesan events, fifteen denominational meetings and gatherings, and ten provincial meetings. Beyond routine responsibilities, I fulfilled ten speaking engagements at various conferences and seminars. A distinct highlight of this period occurred at this

General Council, where I was the Institutor and Celebrant for the Opening Eucharist and formally installed The Rt. Rev. Jason R. Grote as the Bishop of the Diocese of the Central States. These collective ministries and milestones reflect the steady growth taking place across our communities, demonstrating the continued vitality of our shared work.

**Report of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mid-America to the
58th General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church
June 2026**

The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mid-America since the last General Council held in June 2023.

Standing Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. Jared Pulver, St. Timothy's Anglican Church, Jonesboro, AR
 - b. Mr. Timothy Wilson, St. Benedict's Anglican Church, Rockwall, TX (approved conditionally pending clear background check and receipt of transcripts)
2. Approved Candidacy for Diaconess
 - a. Ms. Marisa Cappuccia, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX
3. Clergy Status Change
 - a. The Rev. John Clay, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Houston, TX, Installed as the 4th Rector
4. Approved Search Committee Procedure and Committee Members for the Election of a Suffragan
5. Approved changing the planned Zoom Synod to an in-person Synod to be held November 29-30, 2023 at Church of the Holy Communion
6. Approved the recommendation to the Trustees of the Diocese to proceed with a vote on covering the cost of meals and registration for the clergy and delegates at Synod.
7. Approved the commissioning of Holy Cross mission in Colorado Springs

Standing Committee Email Vote

Friday, September 1, 2023

Action taken:

1. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination of Mr. Brett Lemke, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX, to the Diaconate

Standing Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Actions taken:

1. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination to the Diaconate
 - a. Mr. Matthew Visk, Christ's Chapel, Riverside, CA (examined for both Diaconate and Presbyterate)
 - b. Mr. Kevin Harris, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Houston, TX (approved conditionally pending clear background check and receipt of transcripts)
2. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination to the Presbyterate
 - a. The Rev. Deacon Dr. Joshua Harper, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX
3. Reception as Presbyter
 - a. The Rev. Mitchell Keppler received from the ACNA Missionary Diocese of All Saints

4. Clergy Status Changes:
 - a. The Rev. Donald Richmond (retired) reinstated to the DMA rolls
 - b. The Rev. Mitchell Keppler, St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Bellville, TX changed from Priest-in-Charge to Vicar
5. Closings
 - a. St. Barnabas Extension Work, Lansing, MI
6. Approved the election of Canon John Boonzaaijer as the Missionary Suffragan of Cuba.
7. Approved Canon Charles Camlin and Canon Jason Grote as nominees for the election of a Suffragan.

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2023

Actions taken:

1. Approved examination and upon successful completion, orders regularized to the Diaconate
 - a. Roberto Cruz, The Chapel of the Cross/Iglesia Santa Cruz, Dallas, TX
(approval is conditional upon being confirmed, a clear background check, receipt of transcripts, Vestry certification, and recommendation from a priest.)
2. Clergy Status Changes
 - a. The Very Rev. Kasey Gage, Chair of Examining Chaplains
 - b. Mrs. Melinda Brown, Church of the Holy Communion, Deaconess Candidacy paused
3. Clergy Transfers

-Out-

 - a. Letters Dimissory issued for Rev. Jeffrey Hubbard to the Diocese of the Central States REC
4. Elevated from Mission to Parish Status
 - a. St. Benedict's Anglican Church, Rockwall, effective January 2024
5. Accepted results of the election of Charles Camlin at Synod, and consented for his election as Suffragan

"We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mid-America, and having been duly convened by video conference, fully sensible how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that the Very Reverend Canon Dr. Charles F. Camlin is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in religion or for viciousness of life; and that we know of no impediment on account of which he ought not to be ordained and consecrated to that Holy Office.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this 11th day of December in the year of our Lord 2023."

Signed:

The Venerable Dr. James T. Payne, President

The Rev. Carl Lund

The Rev. Dr. Robert Bowman

Deaconess Canon Annette Johnson

Mrs. Petie Lebanowski
Mrs. Erin Berge
Mrs. Cathy Heissenhuber, Secretary

Standing Committee Meeting

Friday, March 8, 2024

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Dr. Martin Alaichamy, All Saints Anglican Church, Shreveport, LA (approved conditionally pending clear background check)
 - b. Mr. Robert Graham, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Lake Almanor, CA
 - c. Mr. Roberto Cruz, The Chapel of the Cross/Iglesia Santa Cruz, Dallas, TX
2. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination to the Presbyterate
 - a. The Rev. Deacon Victor Odinye, St. Matthias Anglican Church, Katy, TX
3. Ordination to the Presbyterate
 - a. The Rev. Deacon Gregory Mattson, Christ Anglican, Hot Springs, AR
4. Clergy Status Changes
 - a. The Rev. Deacon Gregory Mattson, Christ Anglican, Hot Springs, AR, Minister-in-Charge.
 - b. The Rev. Deacon Neill Bryant, St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Flowood, AR, suspended
5. Mission Reactivated
 - a. Christ Anglican, Hot Springs, AR
6. Clergy Transfers
 - Out-
 - a. Letters Dimissory issued for the Rev. Deacon Jason McInnis to the Anglican Province in America

Standing Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. Andrew Cantelmi, Anglican Church of the Epiphany, La Mirada, CA
 - b. Mr. Richard Reeb, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Tinley Park, IL
2. Approved examination and upon successful completion, orders regularized
 - a. Pastor Jacob Hanby, Missioner, Caro, MI
3. Approved examination and upon successful completion, Setting Apart of a Deaconess
 - a. Ms. Melinda Skelton, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX
4. Clergy Status Changes
 - a. The Rev. Donald Richmond resigned from ministry in the REC
5. Clergy Transfers
 - In-
 - a. The Rev. Patrick Dorn from ACNA Missionary Diocese of All Saints
 - b. The Rev. Denzil Roland from ACNA Missionary Diocese of All Saints
6. Approved Name Change
 - a. Re-launch of Christ Anglican church plant in Hot Springs, AR with new name of Resurrection Anglican Church

7. Approved Church Plants
 - a. Church of the Apostles, Flint, MI
 - b. Epiphany Anglican Fellowship, Longmont, CO

Standing Committee Consent

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Action taken:

1. Consented for the Election of Jason Robert Grote as Coadjutor of the Diocese of the Central States

“We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mid-America, and having been duly voted in writing via email through the Secretary, fully sensible how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that the Very Reverend Canon Jason Robert Grote is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in religion or for viciousness of life; and that we know of no impediment on account of which he ought not to be ordained and consecrated to that Holy Office.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this 29th day of October in the year of our Lord 2024.”

The Venerable Dr. James T. Payne, President

The Rev. Carl Lund

The Rev. Kasey Gage

Deaconess Canon Annette Johnson

Mr. Mark Knight

Mrs. Erin Berge

Mrs. Cathy Heissenhuber, Secretary

Standing Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. Matthew Bergstrom, St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, Lake Almanor, CA
2. Approved Candidacy for Deaconess
 - a. Mrs. Katia Crabb, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX
 - b. Mrs. Marcia Farrar, St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Flowood, MS
3. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination to the permanent Diaconate
 - a. Mr. Jared Pulver, St. Timothy’s Anglican Church, Jonesboro, AR
4. Approved examination and upon successful completion, reception to the Presbyterate
 - a. The Rev. Charles Birkby
5. Approved examination and upon successful completion, orders regularized to the Diaconate
 - a. Pastor Brandon Davidson (PCA)
6. Clergy Status and Position Changes
 - a. The Rev. Canon Tony Welty, Canon Missioner for Church Revitalization

- b. The Very Rev. Russell Ellisor, Dean of South Texas/Southern Louisiana Deanery
 - c. The Rev. Sunil Rajah, Vicar, Blessed Trinity Church, El Cajon, CA
 - d. The Rev. Matthew Visk, Presbyter and Rector, Christ's Chapel, Riverside, CA
 - e. The Rev. Henry Birkinbine, Retired
 - f. The Rev. Dr. Robert Bowman, Retired
 - g. Pastor Jacob Hanby, withdrawal of application for Holy Orders
 - h. The Rev. Victor Odinye, Presbyter, St. Matthias Anglican Church, Katy, TX
 - i. Mr. Michael Nader, postulancy reinstated, All Saints Anglican Church, Shreveport, LA
 - j. The Rev. Jeffrey Steel, reinstated to diocesan rolls
 - k. The Rev. Deacon Roberto Cruz, Minister-in-Charge, Iglesia Santa Cruz, Dallas
 - l. Mr. Chad McIntyre, withdrawal of application for Holy Orders
7. Clergy Transfers
- Out-
- a. The Rev. Omar Bravo, Iglesia Santa Cruz, Dallas, TX
8. Reception of Parish
- a. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Los Altos, CA

Standing Committee Email Vote

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Action taken:

- 1. Approved participation in the Clergy Wellness Support Fund grant through the ACNA with Bishop-elect Jason Grote serving as Diocesan Champion, assisted by Rev. Wyatt Boutwell.

Standing Committee Email Vote

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Action taken:

- 1. Approved examination and upon successful completion, Setting Apart of Deaconesses
 - a. Mrs. Jane Charnock, St. Mark the Evangelist, Waxahachie, TX
 - b. Ms. Marisa Cappuccia, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX

Standing Committee Email Vote

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Actions taken:

- 1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. John McLain, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX
- 2. Approved Candidacy for Deaconess
 - a. Mrs. Kaylene Graham, Anglican Church of the Epiphany, La Mirada, CA
- 3. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination to the Diaconate
 - a. Mr. William Nash, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Tinley Park, IL
 - b. Mr. Greg Hoyt, St. Matthias Anglican Church, Katy, TX
 - c. Mr. Timothy Wilson, St. Benedict's Anglican Church, Rockwall, TX
 - d. Mr. James Allen, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Peoria, AZ
 - e. Dr. Martin Alaichamy, All Saints Anglican Church, Shreveport, LA

4. Clergy Status and Position Changes
 - a. Canon Michael Vinson, Canon Missioner
 - b. The Rt. Rev. Frank Brulc, Vicar of Church of Our Savior, Joplin, MO
5. Reverted from Parish to Mission Status
 - a. St. Michael's Anglican Church, Broken Arrow, OK
6. Clergy Transfers

-In-

 - a. The Rt. Rev. Gerald Schnackenberg from the Diocese of Biharamulo, Province of the Anglican Church in Tanzania (AMiA)
 - b. Mr. Greg Hoyt from the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

-Out-

 - a. Letters Dimissory issued for the Rev. Steven McCarthy to the ACNA Diocese of Quincy
 - b. Letters Dimissory issued for the Rev. Derek Harmon to the ACNA Diocese of the South

Standing Committee Email Vote

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Action taken:

1. Approved examination and upon successful completion, orders regularized to the Diaconate and Presbyterate
 - a. Pastor Marq Toombs (PCA)

Standing Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. Clifford Lopez, Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX
 - b. Mr. Louis Comus, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Peoria, AZ
 - c. Mr. Joseph Wells, St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Montrose, CO
 - d. Mr. Noah Richards, Anglican Church of the Epiphany, La Mirada, CA
2. Elevated from Mission to Parish Status
 - a. St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Bellville, TX
 - b. Holy Cross Anglican Church, Colorado Springs, CO
3. Clergy Status Change
 - a. The Rev. Mitchell Keppler, 1st Rector of St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Bellville, TX
 - b. The Rev. Jesse Barkalow, 1st Rector of Holy Cross Anglican Church, Colorado Springs, CO
 - c. The Rev. Andrew Hurt, reactivated and serving at Providence REC, Corpus Christi, TX
4. Clergy Transfers

-In-

 - a. The Rev. Deacon Shane Taylor from ACNA Diocese of the Living Word
 - b. The Rev. Deacon Dwight Harp from ACNA Diocese of the Rocky Mountains

Standing Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. Adam Reed, The Chapel of the Cross, Dallas, TX
2. Clergy Receptions
 - a. The Rev. Anthony Cirilla from United Episcopal Church
 - b. The Rev. Deacon Kenyon Bunch from United Episcopal Church
3. Parish Receptions
 - a. St. Joseph Anglican Church, Branson, MO

Standing Committee Meeting

Friday, March 6, 2026

Actions taken:

1. Approved Candidacy for Holy Orders
 - a. Mr. Dominic Garlick, Holy Cross Anglican Church, Colorado Springs, CO
 - b. Dr. Edwin Charnock, St. Mark the Evangelist, Waxahachie, TX
2. Clergy Receptions
 - a. The Rev. Deacon James “Jay” Baker from Anglican Mission in America
3. Clergy Status Changes
 - a. The Rev. Thomas McGee, retired as Rector of St. Timothy’s Anglican Church, Jonesboro, AR, currently assisting at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Tyler, TX
 - b. The Rev. Brad Sneed, Priest-in-Charge, St. Timothy’s Anglican Church, Jonesboro, AR
 - c. The Rev. Deacon James Allen, suspended
 - d. Mrs. Renee Boutwell, withdrawal from Diaconess candidacy
 - e. The Rev. Dr. Robert Bowman, demitted from Holy Orders
4. Clergy Transfers

-Out-

 - a. The Rev. Deacon Roberto Cruz to the ACNA Diocese of Quincy
5. Approved examination and upon successful completion, ordination to the Presbyterate
 - a. The Rev. Deacon Jared Pulver, St. Timothy’s Anglican Church, Jonesboro, AR
6. Approved Parish Name Change
 - a. Epiphany Anglican Fellowship, Longmont, CO changed to Epiphany Anglican Church
7. Rejected Bishop Ray Sutton’s resignation in advance of his 75th birthday in August, approving him to continue as Ordinary.