

2021 North Fairfax Region Annual Report, Diocese of Virginia

North Fairfax Region Council membership has remained engaged throughout 2021 and meetings continue to be well attended albeit in the virtual environment necessitated by the pandemic. The churches in the North Fairfax Region are Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna; Church of the Holy Cross, Dunn Loring; Church of the Epiphany, Herndon; St. Anne's, Reston; St. Dunstan's, McLean; St. Francis' Korean, McLean; St. Francis', Great Falls; St. John's, McLean; St. Thomas', McLean; and St. Timothy's, Herndon. The Very Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith serves as Dean for the Region.

Our Congregations continued to maintain robust weekly worship opportunities earlier in the year either virtually or outdoors where available. When deemed safe to do so, and with proscribed social distancing and masking, we have effectively transitioned back into our sanctuaries creating a "new normal" worship environment.

The North Fairfax Region Council ended 2020 at its December meeting by electing new officers and after much discussion around our obligation and call for use of our financial resources, we agreed to provide a total of \$4,500 to a combination of ministries, including Arise Campus Ministry, the Latino Ministry at St. Timothy's, and Church of the Epiphany, in support of the homeless shelter maintained in partnership with FACETS, a local charity.

March 2021 Meeting – We were honored to host Bishop Jennifer at our virtual meeting. She provided a broad overview of the state of the Diocese, the challenges and opportunities before us, and engaged council members on their thoughts and ideas on additional outreach opportunities to help expand our ministries, not only at the Diocesan level and within our local congregations, but also in support of local needs.

May 2021 Meeting – Rev. Drew Enz from Arise Campus Ministry joined us and provided an update on current Arise activities. As a testament to the importance of youth and young adult ministries, Council members also engaged Rev. Enz in a discussion around support of potential programs that would enhance the reach of the campus ministry but would require additional funding. Following much discussion, the Council affirmed our support for the work of this ministry by agreeing to provide Arise with additional financial resources by reallocating funds from planned programs rendered inoperable by the pandemic. We also agreed to provide additional monetary support for the Diocesan Committee on Aging. Finally, although mission trips were not feasible this year, we agreed to continue the Region's financial support of the Moving Mountains Youth Mission Trip (formerly Dungannon) and are working to determine how best to distribute those funds to our mission support partners in Southwestern Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Swanson, Vice President, North Fairfax Region