



*The*  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH** *in*  
**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

**CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY & TRANSITION REPORT 2023 CONVENTION**

In May of this year, The Rev. Canon Chris Streeter answered the call to serve a parish in New Jersey. To help fill the void and to ensure that the work of transition ministry could continue uninterrupted, I accepted the invitation of Bishop Scanlan to serve in the role of Interim Transition Minister.

Since that time I have served as coach, resource, companion and guide to the parishes in our diocese that are in some state of transition. To date, 12 of the 63 parishes in our diocese are without a seated rector. Only 3 are in the financial position to call a full-time priest.

In early September, I attended the annual gathering of diocesan transition ministers from Northeastern, Mid Atlantic, and Southeastern dioceses. We spoke of the following trends that have a major impact upon the transition process:

- A shortage of Episcopal Priests. For every priest looking to secure a call, 10 opportunities exist.
- Decreasing attendance resulting in smaller parishes that do not have the financial resources to call a full-time priest. This poses the challenge of attracting a priest willing to relocate for a half-time call.
- Slow rebound from conditions caused by the COVID pandemic.

Despite the challenges, however our parishes are comprised of good and faithful people that love God and one another and are committed to the Church. Our faith is strong and with God's help and guidance we will weather what lies ahead with creativity and grace.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev'd Kevin W. Barron  
Interim Transition Minister