



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH *in*
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY & TRANSITION REPORT 2024 CONVENTION

Since last year's report, vacancies for priests were filled for the following parishes:

- St. John's Bellefonte
- St. Mary's Waynesboro
- St. Luke's Mechanicsburg
- Christ Memorial Danville
- St. Andrew's Lewisburg
- St. Paul's Harrisburg
- St. John's Marietta
- St. John's Huntingdon

In early September, I attended the annual gathering of diocesan transition ministers from Northeastern, Mid Atlantic, and Southeastern dioceses. The trends that have a major impact upon the transition process continue to evident across the landscape of the Episcopal Church. This outlook will continue for quite a number or years.

- 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.
- Parishes, with few exceptions, have not returned to their pre-COVID membership levels.

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