Bishop's Report to Convention

November 2025 – October 2026

November 13th marks the fifth year since I was ordained and consecrated as your bishop, and I am surprised by how quickly these first five years have elapsed. Our partnership in ministry continues to bring me joy, and I trust that God has many more good things in store for us.

In this report you will find the highlights that pertain to our common life and ministry since our last Diocesan Convention. I also commend to you all of the reports included in this journal. I am grateful for the contribution of the capable members of our diocesan staff, of the diligent leaders of our governing bodies and committees, and for your faithful involvement in our joint ministry endeavors. God is bringing new things to fruition in our midst, and with God's help, our statement "Grounded in Christ, Growing Anew" is becoming a lived reality.

Faithfully,
+Ketlen

APPOINTMENTS:

- Board of Trustees: Mr. Arthur Noonan (1st 3-year term)
- Commission on Ministry: Mrs. Kate Geiger (1st 3-year term), the Rev. Marjorie Bevans (1st 3-year term), the Rev. Jim Miorelli (1st 2-year term)
- Church Attorney: Ms. Sue DeWalt (1-year term)
- Chaplain to the Retired Bishops: The Rev. William "Bill" Geiger (open-ended)
- Special Assistant to the Bishop [Feb 2026]: Ms. Jane Burger (open-ended)

DIOCESAN PRIORITIES:

GROWTH:

Curacy Program:

- Two curates are involved in the program this year. One is engaging for a third year, and the other is in the midst of completing a second year.

Church of the Incarnation:

- The Rev. Deanna Briody and the core team of Church of the Incarnation launched as a Mission Fellowship of our diocese on November 30, 2025. The congregation is looking forward to celebrating their first anniversary on First Advent.
- During my first visitation at Incarnation in June, we celebrated with and supported 7 persons who were presented for Reception, and 6 for Confirmation.
- During Convention, this year, we will have the opportunity to hear more about how the continuing to thrive under the leadership of Deanna+ and the support of the Bishop's Committee.

Episcopal School:

- Our efforts to establish an Episcopal School in Pittsburgh have continued to take shape this year.
- The school's Board was formed, and the school has now a formal name, The Episcopal School of Pittsburgh. And as many of you may have seen announced, the Rev. Charles Fisher III was named Head of School.

Growth & Revitalization Team:

- The team, whose core value is to continually learn and grow, uses our diocesan monthly Lectio Divina readings and questions as a formation tool to open their monthly meetings.
- The team has engaged in book studies and has invited speakers to offer presentation about relevant topics related to growth and revitalization.
- A subgroup, dedicated to discerning and advising about our diocesan approach to campus ministry, has identified a new strategy for our campus mission, and is interviewing candidates, with the goal of recommending a final candidate for the position of Campus Missioner.
- The team has also been working with parishes that have applied for financial assistance to help them develop a holistic strategy for revitalization.

<u>COMMUNICATION</u>:

- Thanks to the efforts of Communication Director, Andy Muhl, the Diocesan Website has been refreshed (though still a work in progress) to be more attractive and to offer a more efficient experience for the site's visitors.
- The diocesan Constant Contact account was made available to other parishes, so far having added 5 parishes and the Small Parishes group. At a later date, 2 more parishes will be included.
- Grace Happens has an average open rate of 58%, 18 points higher than the religious industry average. Our "unsubscribe" rate for the last 12 months is a miniscule 1.8 %, about 23 points less than the industry average.
- A regular pattern of communication to the clergy is taking place through our diocesan List Serve and monthly Clergy Matters issues.
- Electronic Stats of Interest:
    - In the last 12 months we sent 57 mass electronic diocesan communications including Grace Happens, Lectio Divina, and clergy communications. The next Grace Happens will be # 776 since its founding in 2009!
    - Our website had 1.26 million impressions from 100 countries. Impressions consist of the number of times visitors have seen content from the website. Fun fact: Visitors were from 140 countries, 1.06 million were from the U.S., and #2 was Canada with 27,600.

FELLOWSHIP:

Clergy Breakfasts:

A total of 31active clergy accepted my invitation and joined me for breakfast on six occasions.

Clergy Conference:

Our Annual Clergy Conference, which usually takes place toward the end of September, included more time for play and fellowship. The bonfire was popular this time around.

Diocesan Night at the Ball Park:

A sizable group (of almost 100) from all around the diocese attended the baseball game on September 15, honoring Roberto Clemente. The weather was absolutely gorgeous and it was fun to see so many of us present for such a special event.

District 1 Picnic:

District 1 organized a lovely picnic, which was very well received, and which I was glad to support.

Ministry Celebration Day:

We held a Ministry Celebration Day at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, with a focus on the potential use of AI in ministry.

LITURGICAL AND EPISCOPAL ACTS:

- Celebrated the Renewal of Ordination Vows at Trinity Cathedral, and we customarily do, in the company of the members of the Lutheran Synod.
- Said farewell to the Rev. Philip Wainwright and the Rev. Terri Hunt who died this year.
- Officiated at the wedding of the Rev. Jack Brownfield.
- Baptized 17 children and young adults.
- Visited Sheldon Calvary Camp. The visit was amazing on account of the fellowship and stimulating conversation I had the privilege of sharing with the young counselors during worship.

• Priestly Ordinations	None
• Diaconate Ordinations	None
• Confirmations	40
• Reaffirmations	3
• Receptions	22
• Licensed Ministries:	43 [22 Lay Eucharistic Ministers; 16 Lay Eucharistic Visitors; Lay Worship Leaders; and 1 Lay Preachers]

STAFF CHANGES:

In February, the Rev. Kimberly "Kim" Karashin began her role as Small Church Missioner and Interim Transition Minister.

At the end of June, Ms. Andrea Rath concluded her role in the position of Executive Assistant to the Bishop's Office, and the Rev. Dan Isadore concluded his role as Campus Missioner.

In July, the Rev. Walter "Wes" Smedley began his role as Canon to the Ordinary for Clergy and Congregational Care and Transitions.

In August, Mx. Miranda Rossumano-Esmonde joined the staff as Diocesan Event and Data Coordinator.

At the end of August, the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh and Mrs. Shahnaz Allam-Dinlinger concluded their staff roles with the Beloved Community Initiative.

WIDER CHURCH, PROVINCE III, AND ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES:

- Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania [CASP]: I was elected as President of CASP for a one-year term during the Association's December 2025 meeting. A special event, which the Executive Committee organized consisted of a tea in honor of Bishop Kurt Kusserow (former Lutheran Bishop) and Bishop David Zubik (former Roman Catholic Bishop) for their significant contributions to the ministry of the Association.
- I am continuing to serve on the Executive Committee for Province III. We meet monthly and plan for Provincial Council, which happens in the fall, and for Synod, which customarily takes place in May. I attended both of these Provincial annual gatherings.
- The Rev. Tom Harman, who is the Judicatory Head of the Beaver-Butler Presbyterian Synod, invited me to speak at their January 24 gathering. This group meets 4-6 times a year. In my address to the group, I highlighted the agreement that exists between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
- I participated in the spring and fall gatherings of the House of Bishops, and, at the request of our Presiding Bishop, I had the privilege of offering the sermon during the Opening Eucharist of our fall meeting.
- During Holy Week, I participated in the annual Ecumenical Tenebrae service, which was held, this year, at First Lutheran Church (Downtown).
- I once again participated in the ecumenical Blessing of the Crèche and the Easter Blessing over the City.