



DIOCESE of
CHRIST our HOPE

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Report to the 2016 Synod of the Diocese of Christ our Hope, ACNA
The Rev. Jeff Weber
Chancellor

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It has been my privilege this year to serve you as the first Chancellor of the Diocese of Christ our Hope. The work of this office has been made a joy through the opportunity to serve with such an incredible team. It is particularly remarkable to see the laity sacrificially serving throughout the three regions of our Diocese and to observe their motivation so deeply rooted in kingdom causes. God is at work in our Diocese and it is indeed an honor to be a small part of what He is doing from North Carolina to Maine. Please allow the following highlights to serve as my report to you:

Constitution & Canons. It is difficult to thank the number of clergy and laypeople that gave voice to over 40 drafts of our Constitution and Canons. I am deeply grateful to two of my fellow Chancellors, Rev. Canon Phil Ashley and Attorney Scott Ward for untold hours of line-by-line readings and discussion. Their wisdom was invaluable in the formation of our new Diocese

In February, I, along with Bishop Breedlove and our Director of Operations, Ben Bowman, traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, for two days of presentation and interactions with the ACNA Governance Task Force, where we received the welcomed wisdom of the entire GTF. We ended our time with their enthusiastic recommendation that Christ our Hope be accepted with full diocesan status in the ACNA. This was affirmed at this year's Provincial Council, this past June in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. We are thankful for God's favor and the wisdom of many counselors.

I believe our Diocese has birthed guiding documents that honor the conciliatory and subsidiary nature of our ministry together, providing a God-honoring, protective structure, yet yielding to our biblical and historical heritage that recognizes the local congregation as the fundamental agency of mission. Our prayer is that our Constitution and Canons will serve, guide, and encourage you to find strength in the vision wrought by strategic collaboration, and that both its text and spirit honor our Lord Jesus Christ and His bride.

Regional Networks & Beyond. Over the course of the last year, I had the privilege of representing the Chancellor's Office at each of our diocesan regional gatherings – the Northeast, Blue Ridge, and Piedmont-Coastal regions. The details are many but the work of God among his people abounds.



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In April of 2016 I traveled to Atlanta to represent our Diocese on the board of **Always Forward** (a Provincial initiative of Archbishop Foley Beach) for a two-day roundtable to share ideas and collaborate around best practices related to church planting. It was another reminder of the joy and opportunity that lies in celebrating, loving one another, and serving together on mission.

Resource Development. As we look at the year ahead, the church faces enormous challenges brought on by a whirlwind of cultural changes. To that end, we have begun work on the initial stages of outlining our diocesan policy on Child Abuse. The Diocese of Christ Our Hope will not tolerate any form of child abuse involving our clergy, lay employees, volunteers or other persons. Everyone who serves the church through educational, pastoral, recreational, or other activities is expected to maintain the highest biblical standards in relationships with those to whom they minister, avoiding any form of misconduct against children. If you have a particular interest and expertise in this area, and would be willing to serve the Diocese as part of a team focused on developing guidelines in this area, please let me know.

Opportunities to Serve. Resource development will continue to be a top priority of the Chancellor's office. I want to extend an invitation to any of you who may have a heart, passion, or expertise in areas we will be reserving for future study. These areas may include a variety of legal hotspots, including marriage and family, human rights, risk management, and a host of emerging issues confronting the church of tomorrow.

During the last part of October, I will be attending the National Conference of the Christian Legal Society in Washington, DC, with many of my fellow Chancellors. While in Washington, I will also be participating in a gathering of ACNA Chancellors to pray together and learn from one another. If you are an Attorney within our Diocese, and have a desire to use your expertise for matters concerning the local church, I would welcome an introduction. The time can be minimal – your impact eternal.

Thank you for taking a few moments to learn a little more about our work over the last year, and the opportunities to serve in the future. The challenges are many but our God is greater. It is a privilege and honor to serve you.

Grace & peace,
Rev. Jeff Weber
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