



# THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICE FOR THE UNITED STATES and CANADA

A Founding Member of the Province of the

Anglican Church in North America

Advent 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ at this time of new beginning!

The beginning of a new year in the Church is Advent, which means “coming.” During Advent, we celebrate the second coming of Jesus Christ in preparation for commemorating His first coming. As in most things, the end of a matter helps us better to understand the beginning. The end of all things is the initiation of a new heaven and a new earth. Advent gives us a fresh sense of all things in Christ and is an appropriate time for us to give toward four new projects for our mission fields.

I’m pleased to announce that we have our first new missionaries this triennium. At our last General Council (2017), I called for us to ask God to raise up three new missionaries. Thanks be to His Blessed Name, the Lord has stirred the Rev. Canon Robert Gresser and his wife Traci, along with their two youngest children, to go to the mission field. After a twenty-year career as an Army chaplain, Robert entered a Ph.D. program in Old Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He has been called to teach at an Anglican seminary in Malawi. They hope to begin a short-term mission in February 2019.

Our second project is to provide funding for a small printing and copying ministry for the REC Church in Cuba. This equipment will be used to copy such items as church programs and education materials for Bible teaching.

The REC in Germany also has a new church planter in need of funding. Fr. Marc Jankowski and his wife have been specifically called to church planting. At present, Fr. Marc is priest-in-charge of three new missions.

Furthermore, our work in Croatia needs a new building for their parish in the ancient fortress city of Karlovac. The REC parish in this city is currently renting space. They need their own permanent location not only for the church but also for an extension of their strategic seminary in Osijek, the Mihael Starin Seminary.

Therefore, I ask all our parishes to take up a special offering for foreign mission this Advent. You will find an enclosed brochure that provides more detail for the worthy projects to which the Advent Offering will be applied. At this time when we celebrate so much that has and will come to us through Jesus’ comings in history, let us give so that others might receive the gift of His coming into their lives. To this end, may the Lord bless and keep you.

In Christ,

The Most Rev. Ray R. Sutton, Ph.D.  
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