

Report to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church (HSEC).

From the representatives of the HSEC on the Steering Committee of the African American Episcopal Historical Collection (AAEHC), an archive and research center jointly managed by the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church and the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS).

Your representatives also constitute the HSEC's Standing Committee on the AAEHC.

This report is for the period June 2021 to June 2022.

HSEC Representatives: The Rev. Dr. Valerie Bailey Fischer; Ms. Julia Randle; The Rev. Dr. Gardiner H. Shattuck, Jr.; Ms. Susan Stonesifer; The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard (Honorary); The Rev. Dr. Alfred Moss, Co-Chair, AAEHC Steering Committee, and Chair, HSEC Standing Committee on the AAEHC.

GENERAL REPORT:

Since June 2021, the date of your Standing Committee's last report to the HSEC Board, the AAEHC has resumed fully its functions as an archive and research center, for the time being under the sole direction of Riley K. Temple, Archivist of the AAEHC, with advice and guidance from Dr. Mitzi J. Budde, Executive Director of the AAEHC, Head of the VTS Library, and Professor of Theology. The functioning of the AAEHC has been enhanced greatly by its new offices and display spaces in the magnificent new multi-million dollar VTS Library.

Currently, a search is underway for a new Archivist of VTS, who, when in place, will be Riley Temple's supervisor. VTS has received 40 applications for the post, and is currently deciding on the top three applicants to be considered.

The administrators of the AAEHC continue to provide on-line assistance to researchers around the world in regard to questions about the holdings and other information in the AAEHC archives. Funding for research grants to scholars who visit the AAEHC Archives and give a public presentation at VTS on their research projects has resumed.

The expansion of the AAEHC's Oral History Collection continues, stimulated by HSEC President The Rev. Dr. Robyn Neville's communication to members of the HSEC urging them to conduct and submit oral histories for inclusion in the AAEHC Archives. When the Joint HSEC-VTS Steering Committee meets next on Friday, September 23, 2022, Steering Committee members will receive a report on the number of new oral histories received. New oral histories tracing the racial history of both predominantly African American Episcopal parishes and predominantly European American Episcopal parishes have been generated by active encouragement of Riley Temple. Most recently Riley's skill and expertise have been recognized by an invitation for the AAEHC to be a advisor and contributor to the officers of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania's efforts to: (a) encourage its predominantly African American parishes to produce oral histories; and (b) to encourage predominantly European American parishes to produce oral histories that describe the ways in which they have promoted or blocked racial diversity in their membership and promoted or blocked racial reconciliation.

The enthusiastic, skillful, and sensitive actions of Colonel George DeFillipi, Treasurer of the HSEC, deserve special mention in regard to expanding the oral history collection of the HSEC. George is in the process of doing an oral history of The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard, the distinguished historian and former President of the HSEC; an oral history of Marion Wetmore Henry, distinguished lay leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC and the national Episcopal Church USA, philanthropist, and socialite; and a oral history of the author of this report.

SPECIAL THANKS:

I conclude with special thanks to Valerie Bailey Fischer, Julia Randle, Tuck Shattuck, Susan Stonesifer, and Bob Prichard, my colleagues on the HSEC's Standing Committee on the AAEHC and my fellow HSEC representatives on the Joint HSEC-VTS Steering Committee for the AAEHC. This year an additional special thanks to Julia, who will deliver this report in my absence. It has been a gift and a blessing to labor alongside each of them as friends and partners in this important work and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred Moss