

ADOSC Church Planting Diocesan Council Report ~ May 2026

Rev. Todd Simonis – Canon for Church Planting

The Canons for Church Planting from around the ACNA met for our annual retreat April 14-16 in Tucson, Arizona. It was a great time of equipping and refreshment. During that time, Molly Ruch announced that she is stepping down from leading the Always Forward Church Planting Initiative. The Rev. Canon Tony Melton is now the director of Always Forward. I have gotten to know Rev. Melton quite over the past few years and I am excited about his leadership.

Our Church Planting Residency program will begin again this Fall. We anticipate multiple individuals being part of the Residency this year. If you, or someone you know, is interested or have questions about the Residency, there is additional information on the ADOSC website. The Residency offers practical training for clergy or laity, allowing individuals to remain in their current context while receiving weekly teaching, coaching and encouragement.

I continue to have conversations about Church Planting “next steps” with several churches in the Diocese. I am excited about how several of these potential plants can be supported by Deaneries (where no single “mother church” may have the resources to fully support a plant).

Please keep Rev. Daniel Miles in your prayers as he continues the work of planting in Summerton area. In the weeks ahead, Lord willing they hope to announce a church name, a more permanent location and schedule for Sunday worship.

By next council report, I hope to announce the good news of another new church plant in ADOSC and how you may have the opportunity to support it.

In addition to our church planting efforts within ADOSC, I continue to coach Rev. Johnmark Smith in Columbia, Tennessee and Rev. Brandon Marschner in Fargo, North Dakota.

We have identified several opportunities for planting in/around our Diocese. Our greatest need is for the Lord to raise up plant-ers! Please pray the Lord will raise up laborers for His harvest (Luke 10:2).