



*From the office of the Presiding Bishop*

*St. Paul the Apostle Evangelical Orthodox Church*

*2001 E. Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203*

May 11, 2023

Dear fellow overseers and faithful brothers and sisters,

It is with great joy that I report to you the recent commissioning of our newest mission, which is in Edgemoor, South Carolina, USA. 9 of us from our parish here in Indianapolis made the 11 hour trip this past weekend, and we were royally treated with the best of southern hospitality and Christian fellowship. We ate a lot, we talked a lot, we had fun together, we worshipped together, and we ate and talked some more. In the midst of the worship on Sunday, we prayed the commissioning prayers for the congregation and specifically for their shepherd, Pastor Brad Haden, along with His lovely wife, Sharon. It was a very rich and rewarding time, and we all look forward to great days ahead.

The new mission is 16 adult members and several children strong, and they have been together for a number of years. Many of them were previously connected together through a youth group ministry that Brad and Sharon led. They have gone by the name of Edgemoor Abbey, and as they are pondering a new name, they will for the present time simply continue to go by that name, with the additional verbiage under their name which declares them to be a mission of the Evangelical Orthodox Church. They worship in a multipurpose addition to the Haden's home which is very lovely and accommodating.

Pastor Brad and I have been dialoguing since last fall, and as most of you know, they were present with us on the first Sunday of our 2022 Synod. Several months later, a group of 10 of them came to Indy for another visit, including several question-and-answer sessions, fellowship, and worship. Following that, we also did a Zoom meeting with their whole congregation. They are a sincere and authentic group of people who love the Lord and each other, and are excited about embracing a more evangelical orthodox blend.

I will begin working through the catechism with them, mostly via Zoom, in the next week or two. After we get into a good rhythm with that, I will also begin filling in any gaps in training with Brad and other potential deacons or pastors. Eventually, with no predicted time-table, when everything is in place, they will be received as a full parish within the EOC.

A few pictures may help to capture our weekend together:

(1) The altar with a few icons and over-looking the icon of creation outside their windows; (2) Brad and Sharon; (3) One of the talks; (4) Kitchen prep for all the great meals; (5-7) Commissioning Prayers; (8) Communion





May the Lord grant us many years of fellowship, communion, and fruitful ministry together!

In the love of Christ,  
Bp. Joshua