



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

April 23, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic,

It is with profound sorrow that I write to inform you of a recently completed investigation of past child sexual abuse in one of the churches of our Diocese. Last fall, an outside law firm was hired by The Falls Church Anglican to investigate allegations of sexual abuse on the part of Jeff Taylor, who served as director of youth ministries at The Falls Church Episcopal from May 1990 to August 1999, and as director of adult discipleship from September 1999 until February 2002.

Following more than six months of review and nearly 100 interviews, the investigator produced a report establishing that Taylor engaged in sexual abuse of students who participated in the youth program while he was employed. While the report establishes that the church was not aware of Taylor's actions during his employment, it does make clear that the church did not follow either the diocesan or the church's own policies of child protection. This allowed opportunities for sexual abuse. Further, the report finds that when a credible allegation of sexual abuse was received in 2007, the church did not do enough to determine whether others were harmed. Finally, the report finds that in 2021, when these allegations were raised again, the church failed to take the necessary steps to investigate what happened in the church's past.

To the victims and to all people affected by the pain of sexual abuse, I am profoundly sorry for what has happened to you. I grieve with you, and more importantly, so does our God. As a church we bear both remorse for sins committed and regret for this failure. The church must be a place of safety for all, and especially for the most vulnerable among us. As a Diocese, we will work diligently for the protection of our children in each of our local churches.

I call upon our clergy and vestry leaders in every DOMA church to recommit yourselves to the protection of children. Every volunteer who works with minors must be trained in child safety and understand the policies and practices of our Diocese. This information can be found on our website at www.anglicandoma.org.

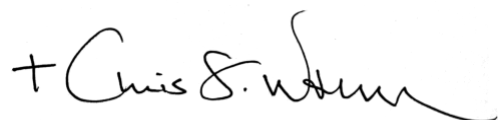
To each and every parishioner, I say to you, please become educated about child safety and don't assume it can't happen in your church, family, school, or team. Most abusers are well known to those whom they abuse and they actively groom them for that abuse. So be courageous and if you see something, say something. Tell someone who can help. As Christians we are called to live in the light. To that end we have established a

mechanism for reporting abuse in our churches through our diocesan website. Be assured that you will be heard, loved, and cared for in this Diocese. My heart's desire is that everyone will find healing and wholeness in Jesus Christ. And if you are a person who has experienced abuse, please talk to your pastor or someone else who can help.

I'm grateful for the humility and leadership shown by the Reverend Sam Ferguson, rector of The Falls Church Anglican, and for the church's vestry, who committed to do everything necessary to discover the truth and to offer healing and hope to those who were harmed. I'm thankful that the journey of healing for these victims and the church is underway. It will take time. I ask your prayers for all concerned.

I want to reiterate to all, and especially to anyone who has suffered abuse, we follow a God who personally knows our grief and trouble. On the cross, Jesus Christ not only bore our sins but also carried our sorrows, our afflictions, and the violations and traumas we experience. He is faithful and true and good. Because he lives, he offers hope and healing. I have experienced this personally, and I have seen this great grace in the lives of many throughout my ministry.

With prayers and love for you in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Chris S. Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Chris S. Warner

Bishop
Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic