



The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Dear “Holy Partners in a Heavenly Calling”:

Do you recognize yourself and your congregation in this greeting?

We do, because everywhere we look during our visitations with you, we see you embracing opportunities to work in partnerships of prayer, learning and service with one another, and we see as well the potential for more fully claiming this calling together. And so it is with some excitement that we write to invite you to participate in our 222nd annual Diocesan Convention, when we will further explore together what partnership in God’s mission means for us, here and now, in the ministries we share.

“Holy partners in a heavenly calling” is how the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews addresses the recipients of his letter in chapter 3, and this theme of partnership is an essential component of the “sending and serving” and “vitality and viability” concepts that have been the focus of our most recent gatherings in convention. Whether we are joining with a neighboring church to address a concern in our own town, or joining with other Christians halfway around the globe to address severe poverty and disease, we are enriched spiritually and can potentially function more effectively in practical ways whenever we work in partnership—and are transformed by God through one another in the process.

Please start making your plans for participation in the convention, which takes place Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2-3 at the Royal Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Fitchburg. Please read the important information in the enclosed letter from Leon Brathwaite, Secretary of Convention.

You have told us that some of the best parts of our diocesanwide gatherings are those times when you can get up, move around and talk with each other, especially those you don’t already know. This year, instead of a guest presenter, we will offer opportunities to do just that, with a focus on partnerships in ministry.

We invite you to bring to Convention three or four non-voting congregational representatives, in addition to your Convention Delegates. Wardens, vestry members, and those who are engaged in partnership ministries (or want to learn more about them) are cordially invited. We particularly hope to welcome at least one of your younger parishioners as either a delegate or an additional congregational representative.

We look forward to greeting you at this important annual gathering.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE

The Rt. Rev. Roy F. Cederholm, Jr.

The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris



Inviting
Forming
Sending
Serving