

Raising up new generations in faith and service: \$7.5 million

“WE KNOW THAT MANY YOUNG ADULTS SEEK WHAT THE Episcopal Church has to offer through fresh expressions of ancient liturgy, intentional community, invitation to seek and question and opportunity to put Christian faith into action through service to others.”

—BISHOP SHAW

TOGETHER we will nurture and release the rich spiritual gifts of our children, youth and young adults so they might quicken the life of our church today and lead us forward as bold and faithful witnesses to the Gospel life.

HOW ARE WE CALLED TO SERVE?

The active engagement of children, youth and young adults in the mission of God is an essential component of a dynamic, relevant and growing church—a church that must continue to evolve to effectively proclaim God’s love in the world for generations to come. In order to thrive now, our congregations need the full participation of all, especially young adults in their college and post-college years who are hungry for new expressions of church and clear pathways for service. With one of the largest concentrations of young adults in the United States residing in eastern Massachusetts, our diocese is positioned to help make sure that tomorrow’s church leaders are actively involved today. Ours is both a great challenge and an incredible opportunity to bring about a vibrant future church—now.

Throughout the last decade and a half, our diocese has made a priority of the full inclusion of children and youth at the heart of our communal life. We came together to build the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, a premier facility that provides a home away from home for thousands of our young people to be formed beyond the walls of their congregations, as retreat participants, summer campers and camp counselors. Additionally, our work through the Youth Leadership Academy and Diocesan Youth

Council grows participation and leadership at the congregational level.

Our work with college-age students, focused in five historic chaplaincies at private universities in the Boston area, offers programs on community formation and discipleship, leadership development and efforts to bring peace and justice to our communities and world. With great success these meet the spiritual and community needs of thousands of students who spend their first adult years in Boston, away from both their family and home church.

More recently, we’ve expanded our efforts to engage young adults, especially in their post-college years. In 2008 the Micah Project and the Relational Evangelism Pilot Project, two young adult intern programs, combined resources to create Life Together. Life Together works to raise up a generation of missional leaders for the church and the world through 11-month faith-based internships for 21-35-year-olds to serve in the broader community through churches or nonprofit organizations doing the work of justice and evangelism. More than 84 young adult leaders have been trained in community organizing, faith formation and leadership development, connecting with 500 of their peers. Collectively, interns give more than 40,000 hours of service per year. Relational Evangelists establish



leadership teams in their congregations which will continue to build young adult involvement for years after the intern's year of service.

HOW WILL WE ANSWER?

By investing \$7.5 million from our Together Now campaign to sustain and grow our current ministries, we will offer new energy to the congregations of the diocese in a variety of ways.

Through the expansion of the LifeTogether program we will make certain that interns are available to more congregations and social justice organizations so that the church can leverage its impact in the communities that need its leadership. Intentional communities of young adults will be connected to congregations across the geographic reach of the diocese, stimulating other young adult involvement and investing thousands of hours of local community service work, helping the light of Christ to shine even brighter in our towns and cities.

Additionally, we will invest resources in our historic university chaplaincies in the Boston area, as well as explore new opportunities at public and private institutions in communities outside of Boston. We expect that these new endeavors will be birthed through the partnerships that arise through the collaboration at the mission hubs.

We also must strengthen the financial position of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center so that our initial investment is preserved for generations of congregations to use for the building of community life and formation of children, youth, families and adults of all ages.

Specifically, we will:

Allocate \$5.5 million to:

- Develop and support the expansion of the LifeTogether program, through placement of four to six LifeTogether interns operating from each of the six mission hubs in communities across the diocese.
- Expand international trips for our college-age young people, supporting diocesan global mission initiatives, such as Jubilee Ministry and Israel/Palestine partnerships.
- Strengthen current campus ministry programs to develop leaders for the church and the world by expanding programmatic offerings to the more than 55,000 undergraduates attending Boston-area universities where the diocese hosts Episcopal chaplaincies.
- Begin new chaplaincy endeavors through the mission hubs, working with state and local community colleges as well as private institutions.

Allocate \$2 million to the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center to:

- Strengthen its endowment and invest in programmatic and staffing needs as the facility and programs continue to grow and transition to new leadership.
- Convert the lakefront house into an environmentally green sabbatical and personal retreat center.