

June 20, 2014

Dear interested congregations:

Thank you for considering the calling and work of becoming a Mission Hub, and for being open to the movement of the Holy Spirit as God invites us all into a new initiative of the Diocese of Massachusetts. From the beginning, this calling and work is about how we can all better practice and grow in collaboration. In that spirit, we ask you to regard and engage this application process as cooperative: this means that you and the Mission Hub Implementation Committee can and should work together even at the application stage. The committee is committed to doing its best to carefully and holistically regard each potential mission hub.

Please review the Mission Hub Outcomes document that is attached as you begin your discernment. This represents the overall intent and vision of this initiative, as well as the base to which committee will hold itself and the Mission Hubs accountable. Each Hub will, of course, be different and grow into this vision in a variety of ways, models and forms, and we welcome your feedback if you have any questions about or comments regarding these Outcomes. The steps listed below provide a logistical map for your process of discernment:

Step 1 -- Complete the Letter of Intent before or by July 7th. A member of the Implementation Committee will respond to your letter with specific feedback designed to help you engage with the rest of the application process in a way that best suits the potential Hub's current situation and needs.

Step 2 -- Attend a day-long workshop we will provide in early September for two or three members of your team. This event will include representatives from other teams who are also applying to become a Mission Hub. Since we will be asking you to collaborate throughout the life of this initiative, we want you to better know – sooner rather than later – your potential partners in the wider work in which we are all investing.

Step 3 -- Complete your application by September 25th. We have attached a copy of this document in outline form with guidelines. After your application is complete, there will be a fourth step, in early October where you will be asked to present your Mission Hub plan to the Implementation Committee, as well as to your fellow applicants. We encourage you to see this, again, as part of our larger collaborative process of discernment.

Be aware that this is the last of three opportunities for discernment and application.

All of this work is made sustainable and life-giving by the gift of prayer. We covenant to pray for you and your team throughout the application process and, over the coming months, we invite you to pray for us and for the others who engage in this work. In order for the Mission Hub Initiative to bear fruit, the Implementation Committee will need to give and *receive* abundant grace from everyone involved. We give thanks to God for the

creativity, energy, the spirit of collaboration, and the openness to new forms of mission that are being generated through this work.

We trust and believe that Mission Hubs will be new expressions of the Body of Christ at work in the world – particularly in the communities surrounding our parishes. We give thanks to God for you and for your team as you begin this application process.

Prayerfully and in Faith,

The Members of the Mission Hub Implementation Committee