



## **REPORT TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2020: THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL**

The mission of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul is to serve as a house of prayer for all people and amplify the mission of our diocese. In the past year, we have taken several major steps towards fulfilling our mission more effectively and faithfully. Here, we highlight four of those steps:

### Revision of governance:

In December 2019, cathedral chapter completed a major revision of our Constitution and Statues, establishing clarity in roles and term limits and creating an Executive Committee to coordinate its work. This revised governance is allowing chapter to function more effectively and lays the groundwork necessary for the finalization of a strategic plan for the cathedral, which will be completed this fall.

### Building and strengthening relationships within the diocese:

In order to serve the diocese well, we have prioritized building connections with a broader range of its people and congregations. This year, for the first time, we sent a copy of our annual report to each parish of the diocese and opened up our annual meeting to a large group of diocesan leaders. We worked in partnership with Emmanuel Church, Boston, as well as Central Reform Temple and the Jumah Muslim Prayer group, to bring a major art exhibit to the cathedral and host related events attended by people from many congregations. Our Sunday congregation has begun a partnership with Grace Church, Vineyard Haven, which is connecting the two congregations through regular shared worship, fellowship and prayer. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, our Music Director, Louise Mundinger, has been hosting weekly meetings for parish musicians in which they are sharing wisdom and resources for making music online.

### Expansion of the work of MANNA:

Working in partnership with the City of Boston, MANNA's model for facilitated peer wisdom sharing among people experiencing homelessness is being adapted in two facilities for newly-housed people to help create conditions supportive to their transition to housing. Also, in response to the increased needs of the homeless on and near Boston Common when businesses, meal programs, and libraries closed due to Covid-19, MANNA expanded its work to provide more meals, respite, and essential services. They expanded their feeding program from one hot meal a week to three days of feeding, helped by generous donations of food and time by local businesses, our parish partners, and an expanded group of volunteer staff. This work was supported through grants from the City of Boston, as well as financial gifts from existing and over 300 new individual donors (Thank you!).

Anti-racism commitment:

2020 is the 200th anniversary of St. Paul's as a parish. In 2019, the committee planning the commemoration pledged to our roots. Their work, which is ongoing, has already revealed that the pillars of the cathedral were made from granite hewn in Virginia by slave labor. The findings of this committee will fold into a process of public sharing, repentance, and reparations in the year ahead. In June, after conversation with cathedral chapter, the staff, and the Sunday congregational council, Dean McCreath issued a statement committing the cathedral to becoming an anti-racist institution (Full statement is on our website). While this work has begun, we recognize that we are woefully late in starting it, that it will require both personal and corporate repentance for our negligence, and that this work must be central to our strategic plan for us to represent the gospel of Christ with integrity.

There is so much more to say about the ministry of the cathedral. We would be glad to talk more with anyone at any time. Please be in touch. We submit this report with thanksgiving for our calling and with credit to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean -- (amccreath@diomass.org)

Jane Peyrouse, Chairperson of Cathedral Chapter -- (jane.peyrouse@gmail.com)