



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Office of the Bishop *The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop*

EMBRACING BRAVE CHANGE

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

Let all that you do be done in love.

(I Corinthians 16:13-14)

July 10, 2020

Dear People of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

When “Embracing Brave Change” was adopted as the encapsulating theme of our diocesan Mission Strategy several years ago, none of us envisioned the extraordinary sorts of “brave change” which would be required of us in 2020.

Swift innovation has been demanded in our ways of worshipping God, supporting one another, and engaging our world. This adaptation has been challenging, often painful. At the same time, some necessary changes have cracked open new insights into how God’s grace can be mediated, what priorities are emerging with new clarity, and how things that had grown old might be made new.

Among the places that we cannot do “business as usual” in our life together will be the annual Convention of the Diocese. Having considered health risks to attendees, the complexity of logistical arrangements, the shifting and unpredictable nature of state health mandates, canonical requirements, and the best possible stewardship of financial resources, the Diocesan Council has charged the convention planning team with designing a virtual convention.

Our 235th Annual Convention, previously anticipated as a two-day gathering in Danvers, has now been re-envisioned as a virtual event to be held on Saturday, November 7. The attached communication provides initial details on the shape of those proceedings. While by necessity streamlined, it is our hope that this adapted shape of our time together will nonetheless provide not only the vehicle for canonically-required actions, but also new and unanticipated ways to engage with one another creatively and fruitfully.

Let alert openness, courageous commitment, and loving forbearance be our watchwords as we prepare for yet another form of Embracing Brave Change this year!

Faithfully and fondly,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates