



Episcopal Diocese
of Massachusetts

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A CAMPAIGN UPDATE FROM THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MASSACHUSETTS

February 2017

TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Because of the generosity and faithfulness of thousands of donors, millions of dollars have gone forth to fund the priorities of the Together Now campaign. Thank you for carrying this work forward through your payments, participation and prayer.

TOTAL PLEDGE COLLECTIONS (AS OF 12/31/16) **\$26,535,736**
83% of nearly \$32 million committed diocesanwide

DISBURSEMENTS

Parish share of collaborative campaigns (as of 12/31/16)	\$8,611,197
Tithing for Mission Beyond Our Diocese (reflects funds to be reallocated)	\$966,429
Green Grants	\$878,934
Green Loans, net of repayments	\$570,735
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$3,489,471
Mission Institute	\$642,677
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$1,750,000
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	\$4,000,000
Total Disbursements	\$20,909,443

REMAINING MONEY AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT IN 2017

Tithing for Mission Beyond Our Diocese	\$250,000
Green Grants and Loans	\$310,000
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$1,200,000
Mission Institute	\$75,000
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$250,000
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	Completed in 2014
Total	\$2,085,000

(parish share not yet available)

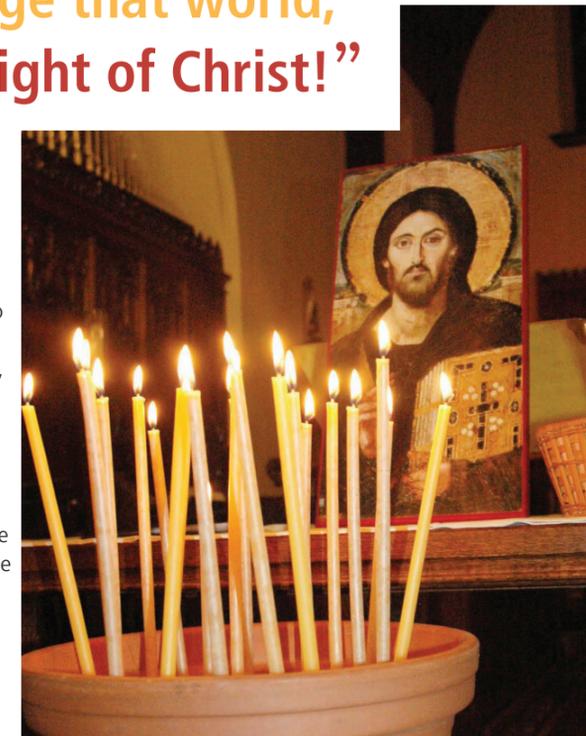
**“Dear friends,
let’s engage that world,
with the light of Christ!”**

The new diocesan mission strategy adopted by Diocesan Convention in November 2016 calls on the diocesan community to embrace brave change by reimagining congregations, building relationships and engaging the world.

Support for stronger collaborations among congregations is among the various goals outlined in the new mission strategy.

“Our diocese is already enriched by a variety of collaborations: mission hubs; urban/suburban partnerships; gatherings of congregations with similar interests, such as leadership in small churches or engagement in global mission; and other shared ministries. We have seen the power and joy that come from working together, trusting not in our own self-reliance but in the God who calls us to be one body of Christ,” the mission strategy states.

Implementation of the new mission strategy will soon be underway. Meanwhile, as the new mission strategy notes, mission hubs — whose five-year start-up phase has been funded by the Together Now campaign — are one model for collaborative ministry that is already in progress. Through the hubs, much is already being learned that can inspire and inform future relationship building and mission engagement.



At least half of the mission hubs are focused in some way on ministry with children, youth or young adults — raising up new generations in faith and service has been another of the Together Now campaign’s priorities — and you can read more about those efforts in this newsletter. Because of the generous giving of so many through the Together Now campaign, afterschool, enrichment and school partnership programs, from the South Coast to the North Shore to the Merrimack Valley, are just some of the ways that diocesan congregations are seeking to engage needs in their communities.

“Let’s engage ever more fully in the mission orientation which so enlivens the church,”

Bishop Alan M. Gates urged in his address to the Diocesan Convention.

“Let’s engage in more collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith partners and all people of goodwill in our local communities. Let’s engage, before it’s too late, in the continuing struggle to be stewards of God’s Creation. Let’s engage in global partnerships, serving Christ in others and bearing witness to genuine Anglican communion,” he said.

He cited the day’s Gospel reading from Matthew 5, in which Jesus says: “You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world.”

“Dear friends,” he said, “let’s engage that world, with the light of Christ!”

Our \$20-million campaign

\$2 million
Tithing for mission beyond our diocese

\$2 million
Caring for God’s creation

\$4.5 million
Equipping congregations for strategic local mission

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

\$4 million
Transforming our cathedral church

For more information about each of the campaign initiatives, please visit: www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign



MISSION HUBS

Each of the eight Together Now campaign-funded mission hubs is charged to engage its local communities through collaboration among three or more partner parishes in a way that lifts up authentic and committed relationships, spiritual and congregational development, leadership and diversity. Six of the hubs focus their ministry on serving and enriching the lives of children and youth — both those who are connected to an Episcopal congregation and those who are part of the larger community. These efforts reflect the unique assets and needs of the communities within which they take place. While two of the hubs, South Shore and Roxbury-Dorchester, are currently in program-building mode, here is a sampling of some of the youth-related work happening throughout the geographic span of our diocese via four other hubs.

For the last two years, the South Coast Mission Hub has contributed to the creative and empowering afterschool programs initiated by St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford. More than 100 children — primarily second and third graders — in the North End of New Bedford are participating in these programs. A new enrichment program for children in the Niagara neighborhood of Fall River will launch in the summer of 2017 with nine volunteers who will be

trained and ready to serve. The South Coast Life Together fellows — young adults who live in intentional community in Fall River — can opt to support these efforts as part of the service learning component of their fellowships.

The Merrimack Valley Mission Hub focuses on offering afterschool programming at four Episcopal parishes in the lower Merrimack Valley. At Trinity Church in Haverhill, the Academy of Creative Arts at Trinity (ACAT) provides group lessons for elementary-age children in music (chorus, violin, piano or guitar), theater and art. Fun and Enrichment After School at Trinity (FEAST) is a student-centered Montessori-based program that encourages learning through self-directed exploration and the development of a positive attitude toward learning through choice, independence, healthy self-esteem and a rooted sense of community. At Grace Church in Lawrence, youth are invited to hone their acting skills, as well as participate in Sueños Basketball — skill-building practice, games and tournaments for students ages 6-17. Participants are also encouraged to partake in enrichment trips, Bible study, hearing from motivational speakers and more. St. Anne's Church and St. John's Church, both in Lowell, engage young people in myriad activities, including sewing, painting, cooking, art, Bible

study and informal mentoring. Esperanza Academy in Lawrence receives hub funding for a social worker and music teacher to serve the needs of its all-female middle school student body.

The North Shore Mission Hub focuses its ministry in two geographic centers. Grace Church in Salem, in partnership with the All Our Children Network, provides multi-year support to one class of students attending the Nathaniel Bowditch School. St. Stephen's Church in Lynn offers Kids in Community (KIC), a two-day-per-week afterschool program serving about 20 students. Participants receive training in musicology, piano and drumming as well as homework support, healthy snacks and game time.

The MetroWest Mission Hub, also known as ProGente Connections, strives to serve the needs of the significant and growing Brazilian diaspora community through Português Plus, a culture and language program for children in both Framingham and Marlborough offered Saturday mornings throughout the academic year. Português Plus helps children learn about their family heritage with the goal of celebrating and preserving Brazilian culture.

— Jin Min Lee
Program Director, Mission Hub Initiative
Photos by Michelle Porche and Tracy J. Sukraw

enrich lives of children and youth



Creation Care Initiative PAYS IT FORWARD



Seven years ago, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts launched the Creation Care Initiative — an innovative program supporting congregations in caring for God's creation by making funds available for "green" improvements and education efforts. Kicked off by the diocese's 2011 Annual Fund campaign, \$2 million was subsequently made available through the generosity of donors to the Together Now campaign. Since then, 102 congregations — over half — have participated in the program. Awards have ranged from grants of several hundred dollars to start community gardens and recycling programs, to \$10,000 grants for new boilers, windows and insulation, to loans of up to \$100,000 for significant HVAC system overhauls in some of our oldest church buildings.

The impact of the Creation Care Initiative will continue well into the future. First, the \$1-million Green Loans program will continue in perpetuity, as churches pay back their low-interest loans and those funds continue to be made available for new borrowing. Second, the investment made by more than 100 congregations in their programs and building infrastructure through the grant program will pay dividends for decades to come, not just through lower energy and maintenance bills, but through the attention and interest the projects themselves brought to the congregations, and in turn to the homes and habits of their members. As any member of these churches' Creation Care Committees will tell you, it takes a lot more than just a Green Grant to make energy efficiency happen. It takes dedicated volunteer lay leadership, clergy support, technical knowledge and congregational buy-in.

As our diocese's new mission strategy moves toward implementation, God's creation and responsible stewardship of our buildings and grounds will continue to be a priority, thanks to the many people who championed this movement and the prayerful and thoughtful process that has formed the strategy to date. As Kermit the Frog famously sang, "it's not easy being green," and yet it is our calling as Christians to care for this fragile earth, our island home.

— Esther Powell
Creation Care Task Force