

Collaborative vision brings Mission Institute into being

When the Together Now campaign began in 2010, \$1 million was designated to develop an institute that would encourage congregations involved in new models for mission and deeper engagement, both locally and globally, and provide resources to all the congregations of the diocese, especially those in urban centers.

Collaboration was a hallmark of the vision of the Mission Institute from the very beginning. Another key component of the institute's initial vision was a focus on issues of justice and community transformation. This led to the proposal of a partnership that includes Episcopal City Mission, Episcopal Divinity School and the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

Committees labored over a two-year period and charted a path forward. This plan was undergirded by a period of sustained listening to intentionally seek diverse voices and perspectives that would help identify the potential offerings of the institute and the



resources sought by congregations. Governance and budget plans, operational models, staffing, measurement tools and a five-year strategy came forth, and in January of 2013, Diane D'Souza was hired as the first director. A management team

comprises one representative from each of the three partnering institutions.

During the first few months of D'Souza's tenure the institute launched the first pilot, a workshop teaching effective shared leadership, as part of the Diocese of Massachusetts Regional Learning Events in spring of 2013.

Other offerings to date include a resilience training workshop, in the fall of 2013, in partnership with Lesley University and the Diocese of Massachusetts, developed partly in response to the Boston Marathon bombings and their impact on communities; in fall 2013 and spring 2014, an online conversation group, "Circles of Action and Transformation: Advocacy for the Homeless," for congregations engaged with ministries to homeless families housed in hotels; and, in spring of 2014, a workshop, again part of the diocese's Regional Learning Days, that offered tools

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

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CONGREGATIONS ARE GROWING “GREEN” THROUGH TOGETHER NOW-FUNDED GRANTS

The diocese’s Creation Care Initiative exists to encourage, challenge and support all the congregations of the diocese as they carry out their responsibility to care for God’s creation. Funded primarily by the Together Now campaign, the 2014 cycle of “green” grants will support 25 congregations through one of two granting programs.

The first, Simple Acts Grants, supports congregational activities and programs that focus on the environment and conservation and are built on appreciation of and gratitude for God’s blessings. Examples include congregations coming together for

bulk purchasing of earth-friendly office and hospitality supplies; a children’s gardening project that benefits a local food pantry; or some kind of public policy advocacy effort.

While Simple Acts Grants range from \$500 to \$1,000, larger Green Improvement Grants are given in amounts up to \$10,000 to assist congregations in funding purchases of energy-saving equipment and supplies.

This year, St. Peter’s Church-on-the-Canal in Buzzards Bay received a Green Improvement Grant to replace an old, frequently used door with a more energy-efficient one. The original

door was a residential installation instead of a commercial one, and was highly inefficient as a busy entry point for community activities and Sunday services.

The commitment to creation care runs deep at St. Peter’s. It has received several previous Green Improvement Grants—funds that have allowed the parish to install low-flow toilets, motion-detection lighting and an on-demand hot water heater, offering members a glimpse of how small changes can add up to big cost and energy savings, not only in their parish, but in their homes and places of work.

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to congregations for building and maintaining Web sites and making effective use of social media.

During the past year, the institute has launched its own Web site, www.themissioninstitute.org, intended to model new and innovative ways of being church. Bill Judge, management team member from Episcopal Divinity School, explained: “The site is intended as a stepping stone into the wider use of social media. It is the centerpiece of what will become a content-rich

resource for congregations in this diocese and beyond.”

The largest single project of the Mission Institute this year has been a collaboration with the congregational development team on the diocesan staff to produce a video teaching series. The series grew out of a diocesan study project involving faculty members of Hartford Seminary exploring how theories of church growth can be applied to a variety of congregational settings.

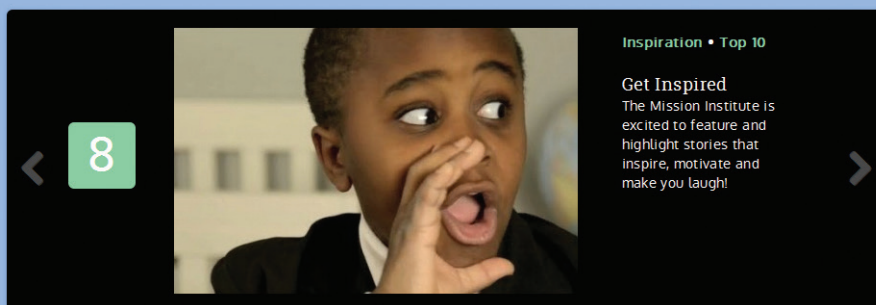
Mary Beth Mills-Curran, Episcopal City Mission management team member, described the project: “The Mission Institute’s role has been to document and synthesize these learnings into a creative video resource for all congregations in the diocese.” This video series will be launched this fall, in conjunction with Diocesan Convention.

The institute has also played a central role in the design of the “Birthing a Hub” workshop in partnership with the Leadership Development Initiative and the Emmanuel Gospel Center. For teams that have applied to become mission hubs (also a collaborative initiative of the Together Now campaign), these workshops have been instrumental in providing guidance toward developing the cohesion and capacity to carry out their vision for local mission, here in eastern Massachusetts.

Beginning this month, D’Souza will move to full-time status as the work of the institute and the program offerings continue to grow. “I am excited for what this means to the Mission Institute and the opportunity to expand and strengthen its programs in congregations and communities across Massachusetts,” said D’Souza.

— The Rev. Sam Rodman

Mission Institute Top 10



VISIT WWW.THEMISSIONINSTITUTE.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

With its grant, St. John's Church in Gloucester paid for the engineering plan to design the conversion of its dual-mode heating system from oil to natural gas, served from a single hot water heat delivery system. It's expected that this change will initially save \$8,600 annually and reduce St. John's carbon footprint from heating by 35 percent. The current steam heat system is nearing the end of its useful life, so these timely changes ensure that the parish is able to provide a safe physical space to its members and the larger community for years to come.

Another Green Improvement Grant recipient, St. James's Church in

Groveland, is using its grant as seed money to begin a project that will convert furnaces from oil to natural gas and educate parishioners on making personal changes that care for God's earth. These workshops will be taught by members of the St. James's creation care team who have attended the Sustainable House of Worship (SHOW) workshop that is required of all grant applicants. St. James's co-warden, John Anderson, described the importance of involving the congregation in the implementation process: "The church often serves as a model for its

parishioners in a variety of ways so this [the workshops] will be an important aspect of the entire effort in our church to participate in the broader effort to be more energy efficient."

To date, \$585,849 has been granted to 63 congregations across the diocese. Congregations are encouraged to apply for projects of any scope. More information about Simple Acts and Green Improvement Grants, and information on the application process for 2015, can be found at www.diomass.org/creation-care-initiative.

—Casey Zierler



A PLACE FOR REST AND REFLECTION: CEDERHOLM RETREAT COTTAGE NOW OPEN

The new Cederholm Retreat Cottage is now open at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Built to honor the ministry of Bishop Bud Cederholm, it is a place where clergy, alone or with their spouses, can enjoy a simple, peaceful lakeside retreat.

The idea for the cottage was first suggested by Cederholm during his time as bishop suffragan, and it came to fruition in his retirement. A portion of the funding for the construction of the house was offered from the Camp and Conference Center designation of the Together Now campaign. Upon Cederholm's retirement, the clergy of the diocese were invited to honor him and his wife, Ruth Ann, with a designated gift to the campaign to support the construction.

Cederholm spent more than 30 years as a parish priest, and he and Ruth Ann experienced firsthand how difficult it can be for clergy to get away for a few days of peace and self-care. Between responsibilities at the church and financial limitations, a weekend away was not often feasible.

"The health and welfare of clergy and their families has always been one of my concerns, and the retreat house really symbolizes that," Cederholm said.

Members of the clergy or clergy spouses interested in reserving the cottage for a retreat may contact Jennifer Boyd at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center (603-547-3400 or jennifer@bchcenter.org).

—Ellen Stuart Kittle



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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 9/15/14)

53.4% of nearly \$32 million committed diocesanwide

\$17,100,991

DISBURSEMENTS

Parish share of collaborative campaigns	\$4,972,165
Tithing for mission beyond our diocese	\$717,735
Green Grants and Loans	\$517,685
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$721,207
Mission Institute	\$267,419
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$1,000,000
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	\$4,000,000
Total Disbursements (as of 9/15/14)	\$12,196,211

PLANNED DISBURSEMENTS REMAINING IN 2014 (AS OF 9/15/14)

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese	\$293,178
Green Grants and Loans	\$137,538
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$491,822
Mission Institute	\$132,581
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$0
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	\$0
Remaining amount scheduled to be disbursed in 2014 <i>(parish share not yet available)</i>	\$1,055,119