



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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Dear friends across our diocese,

Many people have asked how congregations could, or should, use our new mission strategy document. The answer to that question is that, while there is no mandate that congregations use the document at all, we very much hope that congregations will. As the Invitation to the mission strategy reads, “This Mission Strategy is an invitation to all of our members and congregations to join in a conversation about our shared goals.” The Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team wishes to offer you the enclosed materials, in order to suggest some possible ways in which your congregation might use the mission strategy document to explore and engage with the mission strategy, itself.

As specified in Canon 10, the mission strategy is designed to guide the use of our shared resources: the funds in our diocesan budget and the gifts and time of our diocesan staff. Right now, your bishops, Diocesan Council and the Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team are hard at work, beginning the process of aligning all of our spending and staff time with the specific intentions we adopted in the mission strategy document. While the process of fully aligning all of our resources to reflect our strategy will take a few years, we already see that it is exciting and full of potential. We are recognizing the good work that already is being done, even as we are beginning to think carefully about what new initiatives God might be calling us to.

Enclosed is a set of materials we encourage you to use in any way that you and the other members of your congregation would find helpful. In order to help individuals become more familiar with our new diocesan mission strategy and to invite congregations to find their connections to it, we offer you a discussion guide, a poster and a series of three bulletin inserts that invite your imagination and conversation about the three main themes of our work together: Reimagining Our Congregations, Building Our Relationships and Engaging Our World. Additionally, Bishop Gates offers us words of teaching and invitation in a short video available for you to use and share with your congregation. Visit www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy for links to the video and PDFs of the discussion guide and bulletin inserts.

We hope these will be helpful. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

In Christ,

Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team,
The Rev. Nancy Gossling and Mr. Win Treese, Co-Chairs