



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are pleased to offer you a brief update on the work of our Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team, also known as the Phase IV Team. We would like to encourage you to attend our annual Diocesan Convention, held this year at our Cathedral Church of St. Paul, on Saturday, November 4. At Convention, our team will offer recommendations for the next two years of our mission strategy work together.

Our team of fifteen people has been working faithfully since our last Diocesan Convention. We are exploring new initiatives that lift up the overall themes of our diocesan Mission Strategy: embracing brave change, building relationships, and engaging our world. We will offer recommendations that will lay the foundation for continued implementation of our Mission Strategy. We have focused on ways to deepen our personal relationships with one another, to increase congregational collaboration, and to facilitate the building of ministry networks across our diocese. We believe that increasing our strength and capacity in these areas helps us engage the deeper work that has been articulated in our Mission Strategy for future years.

At present, we are putting into final form our recommendations for 2018 and 2019 and we are excited to share these recommendations with you at Convention. As part of our work there, we will invite you into a time of relationship-building. In preparation, we ask you to reflect on the following two questions:

- 1- What is the most spiritually significant thing that you experienced this past week?
- 2- What is God up to in your congregations that most excites you or that you are passionate about?

Together, we have prayed and dreamed over these many months. We have connected with people, inside and outside of our diocese, and collaborated frequently with our bishops. It has been a year of hard work, rich debate, and much joy. Now, we are ready to share the fruits of our work with you in November and see what the Holy Spirit will do next among us!

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen. (*Ephesians 3: 20, 21*)

In faith and hope,
The Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team

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