

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GAYLE E. HARRIS



Photo: Pete Jeffrey

The prophet Elijah, after a long and difficult period of dealing with the demands of people, decided it was just all too much for him. Elijah traveled through the wilderness to Mt. Horeb to give it all up. He took shelter in a cave. He was tired and isolated because of his ministry. That is, he thought he was alone since he did not have colleagues nearby, and he didn't have a diocese to enliven him.

God said to him: "What are you doing here? Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by!"

There was a powerful wind that split rocks and mountains, but God was not in the wind.

And after the wind, there was an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

And after the fire, there was the sound of sheer silence.

Standing at the entrance of the cave, Elijah wrapped his face.

And God said: "What are you doing here? Go back to my people!"

The sound of sheer silence was the voice of God demanding action for people who needed Elijah, and Elijah had need of people to be with him in ministry.

Acting with, in and by the love of God to care for others is incarnating the Gospel of Jesus. We continue Jesus' ministry when we are in relationship with each other. We share stories and insights and thereby share the load and consequences. We celebrate together, and thereby we begin again and again.

God's love is more than a feeling: it is action, it is ministry, and without the commitment to justice, love is emptied of its power.

For too long, the church held that mission was something done to people, and for people—a one-way street. Mission often was something to fix a situation and make things better.

The church has come a long way from that understanding. We are in a partnership with God, each other and with those whom we encounter—partnership where we hold others as equals, where a belief in the superiority of a nation, culture or race has no place, and in which money and power are employed for the empowerment of others.

Through the Together Now campaign, much is being learned from and with congregations as they engage in creative mission opportunities made possible through matching grants—even as we teach one another how to serve one another in the name of Christ. Perhaps yours is a small congregation that doesn't know where to begin in the work of mission, or perhaps you're seeking to breathe new life into your current efforts. Read more in this newsletter about connecting with others who can inspire and support new beginnings. Pray about how God is calling your congregation to go forth in service. Consider applying for a matching grant and call upon our staff and Jubilee Global Mission Committee for their consultation.

We are in a partnership grounded in God's love, where we can learn more about God, about ourselves and about what God is already doing among us.

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



Bob Rhoads, parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church in Duxbury, and a young friend partnering together to complete a craft project during St. John's trip to El Hogar in Honduras

God's global mission journey is for EVERYONE

Below: Members of St. Paul's Church in Bedford and Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester collaborate on a medical missionary trip to the FSIL Nursing School in Leogane, Haiti.

“Our congregation is eager to test the waters of global mission work, but with so many priorities in our small parish, we’re not sure how to get started.”

We have heard statements like this one countless times in our conversations with individuals and congregations throughout our diocese. God invites everyone into the journey of global mission, yet some congregations find it easier to follow this call than others. Approximately 40 percent of the congregations in the Diocese of Massachusetts could be defined as small churches. Yet, only 12 percent of the 50 Mission Tithe Matching Grants awarded over the past three years have been given to small churches. (Mission Tithe Matching Grants offer matching funds from the diocese's Together Now campaign to support parish-based mission work outside of the Diocese of Massachusetts.) We endeavor to change those statistics and make it clear that all of us—including those in small congregations—

can be part of the transformation that global mission partnerships empower.

Faced with fewer people and an abundance of responsibilities for other ministries, small churches often find it difficult to recruit volunteers willing to take on yet another initiative. A new land with its own language, culture and food and an unfamiliar history can all be intimidating to the unseasoned traveler. There might be concerns that a financial obligation would be expected. It might be hard to generate interest. It can be daunting to figure out how to even begin.

Opportunities abound for partnership with other congregations already involved in global ministry. Small congregations can join with others to form a single community, combining resources and ideas. Additionally, not every potential partner is impoverished, and many do not ask for financial assistance. Often, they seek prayer, accompaniment, witness and moral support. Opportunities exist for relationships right here in the United States, where the development and strengthening of bonds can be easier.

How does a parish who might think it is too small to sustain such a partnership begin to explore the possibility? A first step would be to reach out to diocesan global mission



personnel, and speak with either of us. Committed to facilitating a global mission experience for every congregation, we have ideas on how to get started. From discerning the call of the Holy Spirit, to evaluating potential partners, to finding an appropriate collaboration, we are here to support and empower congregations. Every congregation, large or small, has something to offer and something to gain from being in relationship on God's global mission journey. Working together, we can live into that glorious reality.

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GLOBAL Mission Summit

Global mission is a decades-long tradition for many churches in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and grants from funds raised through the diocesan Together Now campaign have helped to strengthen and promote this work in recent years. This year, for the first time in recent memory, there was an opportunity for churches and individuals engaged in global mission to gather to share what they have learned, and to imagine what global mission can look like in the future.

The global mission summit, sponsored by the Jubilee Global Mission Task Force and held at St. Peter's Church in Weston on Saturday, April 9, drew 145 people. Speakers and panelists led discussions and participants shared challenges, lessons learned and hopes through a range of workshops, panels and conversations, and gathered for shared worship and music.

All of the organizations that have received diocesan Mission Tithe Council Grants provided workshops: Kenneth Chomba from Tatu Kenya (grant recipient in 2012), Jeanne Ridders from Foundation Cristosal El Salvador (2013), Liz Kinchen from El Hogar Honduras (2014) and Deborah Scarff representing the Maranyundo School for Girls Rwanda (2015).

The day ended with an energetic international Eucharist put together by the Rev. Noble Scheepers, Rector of Trinity Church in Marshfield. Scheepers presided at the Liturgy of the Word, and Bishop Alan M. Gates presided over the offering of a "mission commission" and the Liturgy of the Table, assisted by the diocese's deacon for global mission, the Rev. Holly Hartman. "It was a perfect conclusion to a day filled with the energy and love of the Holy Spirit," Laura Walta, Project Director for Global Mission, said.

– Ellen Stuart Kittle

Full complement of MISSION HUBS serving in all corners OF OUR DIOCESE

Our understanding of mission refers to our baptismal calling to be agents of restoration in the church and in the world. The Mission Hub Initiative, funded and managed as part of the Together Now campaign, supports this with a vision of collaborative mission and healthy congregations throughout the Diocese of Massachusetts.

A hub is a collaboration of three or more Episcopal churches within a particular geographic area committed to implementing a mission outside the walls of their respective church buildings. Until recently, six mission hubs, representing dozens of congregations, had been ministering through partnership throughout the diocese. In the fall of 2015, the final two hubs were approved by the Diocesan Council.

Calling itself **Roxbury-Dorchester Power in Community**, the Roxbury-Dorchester Mission Hub is a collective that seeks to celebrate, connect, leverage and enhance the abundant gifts of the Dudley Corridor. The Roxbury-Dorchester Mission Hub plans to organize and galvanize youth, elders and immigrant populations in order to advocate resources and policies that are needed to support the vibrancy of the community while fostering deep relationships among diverse populations. In its early stages, this hub is offering an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Boston and developing an ESOL program at St. Mary's Church in Dorchester. The hub's priority populations are seniors, youth and immigrants. Episcopal Church partners include: the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin, Boston; St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury; and St. Mary's Church, Dorchester.

The **Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub** plans to launch a network of long-term intentional communities, each committed to engaging a parish and a neighborhood. The hub partners will invest in the vocations of lay people by creating a structure for life in intentional community and by offering logistical support to recruit highly engaged members and match them with a house. These communities will serve as resources to the church and witnesses to their neighborhoods through their commitments to social change, sustainable living and spiritual practice. Episcopal partners include: Emmanuel Church, Boston; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge; The Crossing at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston; the Boston University Chaplaincy; the MIT Chaplaincy; and the Taizé Community at Trinity Church, Boston.





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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 6/30/16)

76% of nearly \$32 million committed diocesanwide

\$24,250,074

DISBURSEMENTS

Parish share of collaborative campaigns (as of 6/30/16)	\$7,666,083
Tithing for mission beyond our diocese (reflects funds to be reallocated)	\$870,960
Green Grants and Loans	\$838,923
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$2,501,250
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 (as of 6/30/16)	\$18,269,893

REMAINING MONEY AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT IN 2016

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese	\$160,074
Green Grants and Loans	\$150,076
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$1,363,649
Mission Institute	\$75,000
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	2016 allocation already disbursed
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	Completed in 2014
Total <i>(parish share not yet available)</i>	\$1,748,799