

UPDATE ON THE BEMENT PROPERTY, February 2010

After many years of determined effort to increase the use of the Bement Camp and Conference Center by the churches of the Diocese (from its peak in 1994), address the ever-growing list of regulatory requirements, and fund the associated backlog in maintenance and facilities work, the Diocesan Council voted to close Camp Bement on June 25, 2009. Immediately thereafter, the Diocesan Council commissioned the Bement Property Discernment Group (chaired by Dr. Paul K. Barten, former Senior Warden of Christ Church Cathedral) to compile, review, and recommend options for a course of action that honored the 60 year ministry of Camp Bement and would be consistent the values and beliefs of as many parishioners as possible.

The Diocesan Council accepted the recommendations of the Bement Property Discernment Group at its December 11, 2009 meeting and voted unanimously to:

1. systematically explore options for the sale of the Bement property (with first preference given to viable offers from religious, camp, and/or conservation groups),
2. retain LandVest, Inc. as broker and agent,
3. establish the Bement Future Fund to receive all sale proceeds, and
4. immediately commission the *Next Generation Discernment Team for Christian Formation* to make recommendations for using the Bement Future Fund to enhance programs for children, young people and adults across the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Bishop Scruton and the Diocesan Council are pleased to announce the appointment of a chair for the Next Generation Discernment Team for Christian Formation — the Reverend William (Mac) MacDonald Murray, Rector of Trinity Church in Milford, Massachusetts (immediate past chair of the Bement Board of Directors). The Rev. Murray will be joined by the three Diocesan Christian Formation Missioners to form the nucleus of the team. Bishop Scruton will be working with the Rev. Murray and the Missioners to refine the scope of work and charter for the team and expand its membership to effectively represent the Diocese.