

February 1, 2012

Dear Mission-Minded Lay and Clergy leaders,

This letter is to advise you as to the work of the 2012 Congregational Development Investment Team that has set the process of allocating financial resources that are available to all the congregations of the diocese. Diocesan Convention approved **\$40,000 in Congregational Development Investments** to be allocated for 2012 for congregations looking for financial assistance. If there is a new mission initiative you are planning for this year, this is the place to look for a diocesan co-investment.

First, enclosed is a list of the requirements and criteria by which we make decisions. Second, is an application which clearly reflects what information we are looking for in raising up healthy, mission focused congregations ministering in the 21st century. All congregations receiving an investment should plan on sharing what they did, what happened and what they learned.

We remind you and the leadership of your church to be bold and dream of an area of new mission development for 2012. These funds are earmarked for new initiatives and responses to God's call in your local ministry setting. You know your context for ministry best, and we wish to work with you as you engage a mission priority that cannot be ignored.

In 2011, some of the projects funded involved youth ministry, a neighborhood Fiesta, adding a new worship service and Christian formation projects. Please note that **\$28,500** in 2012 grants is the remainder the Team will be allocating.

### **The final deadline – March 15, 2012**

This will allow the team time to review all the requests, make the allocations and set up the process for 2013 investments. The mandate for the team remains *to support churches with specific projects or proposals that strengthen healthy mission-focused ministry in the Diocese.*

Please review the attached application and information.

If you need assistance in preparing the application, call one of us.

Congregations will be notified by early April, 2012 if they are receiving funds.

Forward the completed and signed application to the:

Congregational Development Investment Team  
37 Chestnut Street Springfield, MA 01103

Faithfully,

Ms. Bonnie Johnson (All Saints', Worcester)  
Ms. Lynda Lemanis (St. Luke's, Springfield)  
Ms. Beth Washburn (Trinity, Milford)  
Mr. Al Symonds (St. Stephen's, Pittsfield)  
Mr. Crawford Lincoln (Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield)  
The Rev. Nancy Stroud, (Atonement, Westfield)  
*The Ven. William Coyne staff liaison*