



The Diocese of Central New York

"To be the passionate presence of Christ for one another and the world we are called to serve"

October 15, 2008

To: Clergy, Wardens, Committee Chairs, Diocesan Board, Standing Committee
From: Bishop Adams
Re: Staff Re-organization

In the development of the proposed 2009 Diocesan Budget, it became clear that the financial realities of today's economy are creating challenges for our congregations in terms of assessment and investment revenue. Increased energy costs place additional pressures on already stretched budgets. These challenges obviously impact the financial resources available on the Diocesan level for staff, programming, and ministry.

The mission of the Diocesan Staff is to provide resources to committees, commissions, and congregations so that they can minister faithfully in their own communities. This will remain our commitment, however, an anticipated reduction in 2009 revenues has required me to make some difficult and painful decisions.

On December 31, 2008, the staff positions of Property & Benefits Administrator, the Interim Director of the Diocesan Formation Program, and the Canon for Youth and Family Ministries will be eliminated. I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude for the good work of Ms. Janet Pendergraph, the Rev. Joell Szachara, and Mr. Don Carlson. They have been faithful ministers of their responsibilities and they will be much missed. Joell and Don will continue working through the end of the year while Janet has left her position as of October 15, 2008 in search for new employment. I am sure they will welcome your offerings of thanks and prayers for their future.

So as to continue the good work initiated by Joell, Don and Janet, we will work together with the various committees and ministries for which they had responsibility to determine how we will move forward with the work to be done. In particular, questions regarding property issues, the Foundation, Stewardship or benefits are to be directed to Canon Lewis at this time.

I, and the Diocesan Board, remain committed to our Diocesan Vision "to be the passionate presence of Christ for one another and the world we are called to serve" and to our six Diocesan Strategic Initiatives. Ministry efforts will continue to be focused on providing resources to all congregations so that they too may also be the passionate presence of Christ within their local communities.

The Episcopal Church

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Toward this effort, we will be entering a search process for a part-time Youth Missioner, part-time Ministry Developer, and full-time Administrative Assistant. These positions are being created to provide resources for the continued ministry development of our congregations and evangelism of youth (continuing the programs of Happening, New Beginnings, etc. while creating new mission opportunities).

We are living in uncertain times that can be frightening, if we allow it. I know that our Church has weathered difficult times before and we will journey through this one as a people of hope believing in a God that is good all of the time. I ask your continued prayers for our staff, for myself, and for your brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese of Central New York and The Episcopal Church. Know that all of you remain continuously in my prayers.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adams", with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Bishop Adams