



# The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

September 27, 2010

To: Diocesan Clergy, Convention Delegates and members of the Diocese of Vermont  
Re: The 2011 Diocesan Budget

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord:

I write to commend the proposed 2011 Diocesan Budget to your consideration. This budget represents the faithful work of your Diocesan Council and many others who had a hand in shaping it along the way. It represents a strong commitment to continue important diocesan priorities and ministries. I am especially grateful for the continued increase in our support for the mission of The Episcopal Church as embodied in the budget of The General Convention. I also appreciate the commitment to support the work of our Diocesan Ministry Support Team and for our ministries of outreach, social justice, formation and other program areas. I think you will find the new and improved Narrative Budget a helpful document in understanding how the Diocesan Budget is really a reflection of our common life and ministry as a diocese.

We are all facing financial challenges in our homes and in our congregations, and so I am especially proud of the continuing way in which the congregations of our diocese fully support the Diocesan Budget. It is by far the largest source of income in the budget and it is a tangible sign of our commitment to one another that we have such a faithful response. The stewardship of those resources is something I take very seriously, and along with the other members of the Diocesan Ministry Support Team and the Diocesan Council I pledge our continued careful and accountable use of those funds in the service of our common ministry.

The bold new thing in this proposed budget is the initiation of an Annual Diocesan Appeal. In order to fully fund this budget, without significant reductions in personnel or program, or without a significant increase in our assessment formula, Diocesan Council is proposing this Annual Appeal with a goal of \$100,000. Individuals throughout our diocese and beyond will be invited to contribute to this appeal. Ann and I will lead the way and I will be inviting diocesan leaders to do likewise. It is our intention that this appeal will reach out to every person in our diocese and that many will find a way to make a gift according to their ability.

I look forward to conversation with you about the budget at the Ministry Fairs and at Diocesan Convention. Thank you for your faithfulness and your ministries. It is indeed a joy to serve among you.

Faithfully,

*+Thomas*

The Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely