**Communications Minister’s Report to Diocesan Council – 7/29/2019**

Today, I had the privilege of recording a video highlighting the activities of the annual Jerusalem Peacebuilders Leadership Camp. The video, featuring Regional Director Jack Karn and a panel of four teen participants – American, Israeli, and Palestinian – will be released in a forthcoming edition of *The Mountain*. Stay tuned!

In last month’s report, I mentioned that I work had begun on a new page for the diocesan website dedicated to Legacy Giving. Since that time, a draft of the page has been completed and is now under review by the Diocesan Trustees. In addition, a Legacy Giving brochure is in development (with special thanks to Alaina Knowles, communications intern, for assisting with the brochure design). We are working to have the new Legacy Giving site launched sometime prior to the September 28 Consecration of the Bishop-elect. More details to follow.

On July 11, the Diocesan Trustees hosted “Our Benefactors, The Legacies and the Future: 2019 Annual Stakeholders Meeting,” an online meeting to discuss the performance of the Diocesan Unit Trust Fund and discuss the Legacy Giving site and brochure currently in development. A video replay of the meeting is available (with special thanks to Karen Robinson for hosting the Zoom session while I was away on vacation) and can be viewed at <https://diovermont.org/2018/02/11/diocesan-unit-trust-fund/>.

Several months ago, I reported that I had been working with Zion Episcopal Church, Manchester, on a project to redesign its website and revamp its communications’ strategy. That project is continuing to make progress. Zion recently reported the successful completion of a communications survey, and appointment of key individuals who will help to implement the website changes, management of social media channels, and design and distribution of newsletter. As of this writing, I am preparing to meet with the Zion communications team tomorrow to discuss next steps, offer necessary resources, and help refine the project plan.

On Sunday, July 21, I met with a team from St. John’s, Randolph, that has requested support with the redesign of the church’s website. The current site, which was launched several years ago, is built on a platform that has been difficult to manage and is now obsolete. I have shared with the St. John’s team a draft project plan, which they are now undertaking, and I will continue to support them in implementing the plan in the months ahead.

I have been working closely with the Rock Point Board on their communication around [key leadership changes](https://diovermont.org/2019/06/28/rock-point-board-announces-key-leadership-changes-at-rock-point-commons/), which were announced on June 28. As part of this effort, I have been providing technology support for their [recruitment of a new executive director](https://diovermont.org/2019/07/01/rock-point-commons-executive-director-position-announcement/), which is now underway.

Leadership changes at Rock Point have necessitated some urgency around a project to improve – or possibly redevelop – the diocesan database. Exploratory work on this project began some months ago and was a condition of the diocese’s IT contract with Capes & Powers. Project oversight is currently under the purview of diocesan communications, and I am working with Capes & Powers to identify a skilled database expert who can serve as project manager and assist us with developing a project plan, budget, and timeline for the effort.

Finally, I have been engaged with the Consecration Planning Team (and committees from the Team) to help manage issues related to communications and A/V support at the upcoming Consecration.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice L. Harris, Ph.D.
Diocesan Communications Minister