

# FACETS

**The Newsletter of the Global  
Episcopal Mission Network**

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## **The Global Episcopal Mission Network is making big changes:**

New fields of membership: dioceses, organizations and individuals

New responsibilities: Advocacy for Global Mission at and beyond General Convention

New funding plan: Donations, not dues

These are just the beginning as the GEMN Board gathers opinions and information. Read more about it in the letter from president, The Rev. Dr. Ted Gaiser, on page two.

We also continue one of our oldest and most important initiatives: the **Formation Program for Diocesan Global Mission Agents**. Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to help others find the joy and excitement you have experienced in serving alongside Christians in other parts of the world. Do you think the Great Commission is still operative? Does the ideal of being a missionary sound attractive, but you can't do it full time? Plan on training to be a Diocesan Global Mission Agent. Information is on hand at [www.gemn.org](http://www.gemn.org). Read the report on page three.

Announcing  
The 2012 Mission Institute  
of the Global Episcopal Mission Network:  
*"Mission? ... Whose Mission?"*  
*Responding to our Baptismal Covenant*  
The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas  
Bishop of Connecticut and Missiologist  
Plus workshops, worship and networking.  
May 3-5, 2012  
Incarnation Center, Ivoryton, Connecticut

# GEMN UPDATE

## A Message from the GEMN Board President

As the church embraces change in the context of global mission, many mission entities are going through processes of change and transition. GEMN, founded in the early 1990s as a diocesan membership organization, is one such entity currently engaged in change. As a way of re-envisioning how best to respond to needs of the mission community, the GEMN Board has embraced a strategic planning process which is leading us to ask bold questions. At the 2011 Annual Meeting a change in by-laws was approved to shift from a diocesan membership organization to include individuals, churches, organizations, as well as dioceses. At our subsequent Board meeting in January, 2012, we decided to eliminate our dues structure, inviting all in The Episcopal Church to become involved in GEMN. To exercise membership in GEMN, it is only necessary to attend Annual Meetings which are held within the context of our annual conferences.

GEMN is currently launching an information gathering process in which we hope to attain broad participation. A brief questionnaire will be available at our May conference in CT, our booth at General Convention, and also online through our website ([www.gemn.org](http://www.gemn.org)). Data will be analyzed for use by the Board to support and guide our strategic planning and a research report will also be made available online.

Through the generosity of the Episcopal Partners in Global Mission (EPGM), we have funding to support our strategic planning process and provide global mission advocacy. GEMN has hired a missionary who served in Africa to provide advocacy at General Convention (Indianapolis, 2012) and we are in the process of redeveloping informational materials. As part of our strategic planning and re-visioning, we have also used EPGM funds to hire a consultant who will assist us in developing a strategic plan.

In addition to our efforts to revision the organization, we have been developing and offering new opportunities for education and engagement. For example, responding to the need for mission training for individuals we might not be reaching through annual conferences, and recognizing that not all dioceses have the ability to support partici-

ipation in a national event, we launched a joint effort with The Church Center in May 2011 to provide regional global mission events. Our inaugural event was launched in Province I, held at a conference center in Massachusetts. The conference was well attended, received excellent evaluations, and was financially accessible. We are in the process of replicating this successful event in other provinces.

Many of us have recognized a need to offer opportunities to engage in mission discussions that include perspectives beyond the United States. As part of our on-going efforts, GEMN is partnering with Province IX to offer an international global mission conference in 2013. To this end, GEMN secured grants to cover initial planning and is committed to pursuing additional funding to enable full participation of Province IX in the conference.

The GEMN Board sees the task of re-visioning as vital to the life of the organization, as well as responding to the needs of the church, and in particular, the global mission community. Our current Board trends toward baby boomers and is a mix of men and women, clergy (both deacons and priests) and lay, who hail from both small and large dioceses. It's our intention to continue to strive for a diverse Board membership that racially, generationally, and organizationally continues to position us to be a strong voice in support of global mission in the church. (\*If you're interested in serving, please let us know.)

As we engage in this process of change, we hope you will consider joining us by participating in the online survey, stopping by our table at General Convention, attending conferences, and considering serving on the Board. Although we aren't quite sure what the future will bring, we hope you'll be a part of it.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Ted J. Gaiser  
President



*Just as God sent  
Jesus into the  
world, and Jesus  
sent his disciples  
to the ends of  
the earth, we too  
are sent.*

Bishop. Ian Douglas

# GLOBAL MISSION: *Shout it out!*

*Melody Rockwell, Global Missioner in the Diocese of Iowa, writes of her approach to communicating the opportunities and challenges in global mission to the local church:*

It's exponential! It's rewarding! It's planting seeds that sprout and grow in mission endeavors!

Through the GEMN mission agent certification training in 2008 - 2009, my role as global missioner for the Diocese of Iowa has increasingly focused on being an electronic cheerleader. To lift up global mission understanding and engagement throughout our diocese, to inform people about global mission opportunities and challenges, and to invite their active participation and support, I've employed standard avenues of web, newsletter, blog and other electronic postings.

One surprisingly easy and effective means of communication has been to cast a wide net of lively, vivid e-mails to a growing list of people interested in or engaged in mission. Once a week or so, 'mission news' pops into inboxes throughout Iowa and beyond....announcing upcoming events, linking to mission journeys through blogs, requesting prayers for those going forth, offering thanksgiving and reports upon their return, giving a pictorial portrayal of activities in our companion dioceses of Brechin, Scotland and Swaziland, Southern Africa, as well as in Nzara in South Sudan, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic..., connecting to worthwhile commentary on mission from Titus Presler, Katherine Jefferts Schori, GEMN, TEC Global Mission Office...

The best feedback is seeing the e-mails used as a springboard for expanding understanding and action in the mission field – often in unanticipated ways with people who unexpectedly step forth to go forth or offer support for those who do. Electronically sharing the good news of mission continues to pay beautiful dividends. And the further good news is that we've only begun to scratch the surface of igniting the heartbeat, heartbeat, heartbeat of mission in our diocese.



## GEMN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2014

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gaiser@bc.edu

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Diocese of Iowa

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*Address corrections to the above address.*

Would you like to see more global mission activity in your diocese? Sign up for the GEM Formation Program for Diocesan Global Mission Agents.

Bishops, recruit potential global mission leaders in your diocese and send them.

Details at: [www.gemn.org](http://www.gemn.org)

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## *"Mission? ... Whose Mission?"*

*An exciting lineup of speakers for the GEMN Institute  
May 3-5, Ivoryton, CT - Details at [gemn.org](http://gemn.org)*

**The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas** - Diocese of Connecticut - *"God's Mission; Biblical Foundations"*

**The Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton** - Diocese of Western Massachusetts - *"Living Into God's Mission"*

**Mr. Buck Blanchard** - Diocese of Virginia - *"Engaging the Church in God's Mission"*

**The Rev. Kesner Ajax** - Diocese of Haiti - *"God's Mission from the Field"*

**The Rev. Dr. Kapyo John Kaoma** - Zambia/Zimbabwe/Diocese of Massachusetts  
*"Historical Perspectives - Our Baptismal Covenant and Mission"*

**The Rev. Jesse Zink** - South Africa/Diocese of Western Massachusetts  
*"Operationalizing Our Baptismal Covenant for Mission"*

**The Rev. David Copley** - Director of Mission Personnel, The Episcopal Church  
*"Diversity in our Responses to our Baptismal Covenant"*

**Dr. Marthe Curry, PhD** - Diocese of West Texas  
*"God's Mission & the Development of Global Relationships"*

**Ms. Mary Brennan** - The Episcopal Church Center  
*"Uniting the Baptized - Social Networking for God's Mission"*