



Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org

(617) 482-4826 / (617) 482-5800 / FAX: (617) 451-6446

**Open enrollment for
medical plan is early
this year: Oct. 11-31**

The **open enrollment period for the diocese's medical insurance plan for 2012 is earlier than usual this year: Oct. 11-31**, with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2012. Open enrollment is the period when subscribers can make changes and when employees not currently in the plan can enroll. Changes after the close of open enrollment will need to be made through diocesan human resources manager Lynn Clark (contact information below).

In 2012, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will be available as a stand-alone option. For a minimal cost, employees may enroll in the EAP, allowing them and family members benefits that include counseling and legal services and assistance with work-life balance, such as finding child or elder care providers. For subscribers to the medical plan, the EAP is already included.

Information regarding plan options and rates for 2012 was e-mailed on Sept. 22 to parish clergy and treasurers (and mailed to those without e-mail). Additionally, the Church Pension Group Medical Trust will be sending information to subscribers. The Church Pension Group Web site provides medical plan information [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Lynn Clark, Human Resources (617-482-4826, ext. 578); lclark@diomass.org.

**Prepare for Diocesan
Convention at October
forums**

Pre-Diocesan Convention forums will offer an opportunity for learning and discussion about matters to come before the convention, including resolutions and the proposed budget. They take place from **7 to 9 p.m. on: Wednesday, Oct. 12** at St. Mary's Church (258 Concord Street) in Newton Lower Falls; **Thursday, Oct. 13** at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth; **Tuesday, Oct. 18** at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and **Wednesday, Oct. 19** at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield.

**Report delegate changes by
Oct. 28**

Diocesan Convention takes place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Materials and updates are posted [here](#) (or go to www.diomass.org: About Us>Governance>Diocesan Convention 2011). It is important that **lay delegate changes** made prior to the Diocesan Convention be reported to the Office of Convention and Council. The [substitute delegate form](#) will be included in the October mailing to clergy and delegates and also is available at www.diomass.org. Completed forms for substitute delegates will be accepted by mail or fax (617-482-8431) until *Friday, Oct. 28*. Substitutes who miss this deadline and attend in place of regular delegates must bring to Convention the substitute delegate form or a letter—signed by

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a warden or clerk of the vestry—stating the substitute's name and address; the name of the delegate being replaced; and whether or not this is a permanent replacement. Without written documentation, substitute delegates will be required to wait for Convention's approval to be allowed seat, voice and vote.

FOR INFORMATION: Lois Murphey, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406; FAX: 617-482-8431); loism@diomass.org.

Creation Care Season underway

Last year's Diocesan Convention voted to urge congregations to observe a creation care season during late Pentecost and to take up an offering for the [Green Grants Initiative](#). Find a resource list and bulletin insert to help congregations in these efforts [here](#).

SHOW workshops set for 2011-2012

[Green Grant Initiative](#) applications for Simple Acts of Stewardship and Green Improvement grants are expected to be available in early October. The deadline for both grant programs is *Feb. 15, 2012*.

Sustainable Houses of Worship (SHOW) workshops are a required part of the Green Improvement Grant application process. Three SHOW workshops, conducted by representatives of [Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light](#), have been scheduled on these **Saturdays (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.): Nov. 12** at St. Andrew's Church (7 Faulkner Street) in Ayer; **Jan. 14, 2012**, at Grace Church (160 High Street) in Medford; and **Feb. 11, 2012**, at Epiphany Parish (62 Front Street) in Walpole. Completion of an energy audit before attending a workshop is strongly advised.

During each workshop, participants will learn: how to track energy use, cost and carbon footprint; how to find no-cost and low-cost projects that can have a big impact on electricity and heating bills; how to evaluate major energy-using equipment and systems to know if they should be upgraded; incentives, rebates and other financial help available through utility companies; how to apply for a grant through the diocese's Green Grants Initiative; and what green initiatives other congregations have planned or started.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413); kmontagno@diomass.org.

Deaneries need to designate outreach grants by Nov. 1

The deadline for deanery assemblies to apply for Sending Serving and House of Mercy grants is *Nov. 1*. Each deanery must hold an assembly where a vote is taken to award funds to proposed programs. **Sending Serving grants** are awarded to support programs that enhance the outreach ministries of congregations through new or existing programs that support vital congregations, youth and urban/ethnic/multicultural ministries. Collaborative projects are encouraged. Grant awards must have a matching funding component. **House of Mercy grants** support programs and projects that serve women and children in need.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413); kmontagno@diomass.org.

NOTES:

Please share the contents of *fyi* with your leadership and congregation through parish bulletins, announcements, newsletters and Web sites. The contacts listed in *fyi* welcome your inquiries for more information.

- The Massachusetts Chapter of the **Union of Black Episcopalians** is reaching out to all black Episcopalians in the Diocese of Massachusetts with a hand of fellowship and an invitation to learn more about the organization and discover what God is doing to expand common mission and strengthen connections.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Leslie Sterling, St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge (617-249-0537, ext. 1); ammaleslie@gmail.com.
- The chaplains to **retired clergy**, their spouses and surviving spouses will host **annual fall gatherings** for lunch, conversation and support. These take place *10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18* at St. David's Church (205 Old Main Street) in South Yarmouth and *Thursday, Oct. 20* at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston. Bishop Gayle E. Harris will be present.
RSVP/FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Victoria Hunt and The Rev. Marshall Hunt (508-432-2612).
- **Safe Church Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Nov. 12, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Parish of St. John the Evangelist (172 Main Street) in Hingham. Registration is required 14 days prior to the training date and can be done online via www.diomass.org [here](#) (or see "Training & Learning" under "Resources for Congregations & Clergy").
FOR INFORMATION: Richard Vanderlippe, Safe Church Training coordinator (978-263-1895); rvan@aol.com or rvanderlippe@diomass.org.
- **Free online training** also is available. Those who need to take the training should contact their parish clergy to receive a unique ID and password to access the program. More information is available at www.diomass.org [here](#) (or see "Training & Learning" under "Resources for Congregations & Clergy") or from Lynn Clark, Human Resources (617-482-4826, ext. 578 or lclark@diomass.org).
- Episcopal Divinity School (99 Brattle Street) in Cambridge welcomes all to join **weekly worship**, especially clergy who may be in need of a place apart from the parish to come and be fed: Morning Prayer, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Noonday Prayer, Fridays, 12:15 p.m. (first Friday of the month is a healing service); Evening Prayer, Monday-Thursday, 6:15 p.m.; and Community Eucharist, Monday and Thursday, 12:15 p.m.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Miriam Gelfer, Episcopal Divinity School (617-868-3450); mgelfer@eds.edu.
- Bethany House of Prayer, a ministry with the sisters of the Order of St. Anne-Bethany, offers a **Contemplative Prayer Group** on *Thursdays, Oct. 6-Dec. 15, 10-11:30 a.m.*, in the St. Anne's chapel (registration appreciated). A **Contemplative Eucharist** also is offered the third Wednesday of the month (next upcoming is *Oct. 19*), 7 p.m. All are welcome.
FOR INFORMATION: Bethany House of Prayer (181 Appleton Street) in Arlington (781-648-2433); info@BethanyHouseArlington.org.

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Resources for Congregations & Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [Sunday custodian](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [minister of spiritual care](#) at St. James's Church in Groveland; [affordable senior housing manager](#) at Havenside, Vineyard Haven; [educator](#) at the Church of Our Saviour in Arlington; [middle school youth coordinator](#) at Christ Church in Needham; [youth minister](#) at St. Michael's Church in Holliston; [mission hub program director](#) in the Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay Deanery; [organist-choir director](#) at St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge; [director of family ministries](#) at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable; two positions, [director of music](#) and [Christian education coordinator](#), at St. Dunstan's Church in Dover; [organist-choir director](#) at the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor in Provincetown; [choir director-organist](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Ayer; [organist-choir director](#) at St. Mark's Church in Westford; [choirmaster and organist](#) at St. Cyprian's Church in Boston; and [organist-choirmaster](#) at the Church of the Holy Nativity in South Weymouth.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Sept. 24 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report on plans for and progress toward establishing a mission hub in Fall River.

Voted housing allowance designations for two clergy diocesan staff members.

Voted to renew grants to St. John's Church in Saugus to support its rector's salary for July 1-Dec. 31, 2011, to be drawn from the proceeds of the sale of the closed St. Luke's Church, Malden properties, and to renew the grant to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown to support its rector's salary for July-Dec. 31, 2011, to be drawn from the proceeds of the sale of the closed St. Andrew's Church, Belmont properties.

Voted to authorize an additional draw to cover the cost of a Life Together intern at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown for the 2011-2012 academic year from the proceeds of the sale of the closed St. Andrew's Church, Belmont properties.

Heard reports from the bishops, which included an update on the comprehensive fundraising campaign and a recap of the recent House of Bishops' meeting in Quito, Ecuador.

Heard a report from the Executive Committee, which included details of the following votes taken over the summer:

That the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts assents to the entry of judgment requested by the Trustees of Donations Equity Complaint for Cy Pres and authorizes Rick Strout, Assistant Treasurer, to execute on its behalf any documents; and

That the Executive Committee recommends that the bishop request that the Trustees of Donations establish a new trust fund from the assets of the existing trust funds where the beneficiaries

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are parishes that are now closed; identify the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as the beneficiary; name the new fund "Trust Fund for Vital Congregations"; and designate that this fund's income should promote congregational vitality within the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Voted that the proposed 2012 supplemental budget include draws on the proceeds from closed parishes to provide continuing support to the programs initially funded by Council in June 2011 at St. John's Church in Saugus using monies from the closed St. Luke's Church, Malden proceeds and at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown using monies from the closed St. Andrew's Church, Belmont proceeds.

Voted that the proposed 2012 supplemental budget include draws on the proceeds from closed parishes to support the Urban Residents program using monies from the closed St. Andrew's Church, Belmont proceeds for the Urban Resident at St. James's Church in Cambridge and monies from the closed St. Matthew and the Redeemer, South Boston proceeds for the Urban Resident at St. Mary's Church in Dorchester.

Voted that the 2012 core budget draw 4% from the Case Fund to support the Bristol County Case Grants program and that the diocesan leadership and senior staff continue to seek a long-term financial resolution of the obligations to the diocese by Grace Church, North Attleborough.

Voted that an additional draw equal to the liquidated value of 160 shares of Smucker's JM be allocated in the proposed supplemental budget to support the expense of the bishop's dinner at the 2012 Clergy Conference.

Voted to approve the proposed 2012 diocesan budget as described in the document dated Sept. 22, as amended.

Voted to extend an offer to the vestry of Christ Church, Quincy to buy the note it holds from Grace Church, North Attleborough and guaranteed by the diocese.

Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office, which included unaudited financial statements for the six months ending June 30 and assessment balances for 2011 as of Sept. 15.

Voted to approve the nomination of Helen Gordon as a lay provisional deputy to General Convention and James Gammill as diocesan treasurer, to be elected at Diocesan Convention. (Please note: James Gammill has since withdrawn and Theodore Ts'o has been nominated to the office by the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council.)

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Oct. 20, 6-8:30 p.m.,* in Sproat Hall at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Lois Murphey Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406); loism@diomass.org.

PARISH SEARCH & CALL REPORT

Go to www.diomass.org for details (*Resources for Congregations & Clergy > Congregation & Clergy Support > [Clergy Deployment/Transition Ministry](#)*).

Communication regarding deployment and parish transitions should be directed to the Rev. Canon Cynthia Hubbard (617/482-4826, ext. 400 or chubbard@diomass.org).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

NEWTON, Grace Church
STONEHAM, All Saints' Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

AUBURNDALE, Parish of the Messiah
RANDOLPH, Trinity Church
STOUGHTON, Trinity Church
WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church
MILTON, St. Michael's Church

OTHER POSITIONS OPEN TO CLERGY:

SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church: Assistant (part-time). Contact the Rev. Barbara Williamson (Barbara_Williamson@st-elizabeths.org).

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the Nov. 2 issue is **Wednesday, Oct. 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

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