



Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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

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Bishop nominees to be announced and petition process opens Jan. 15

The Standing Committee has announced the **petition process that will be followed for identifying potential additional candidates for election as the next bishop** of the diocese.

The nomination and application process conducted by the Discernment Committee during August and September was the primary way of identifying possible candidates for election. The Discernment Committee is in the process of final discernment of candidates for a final slate of four or five nominees expected to be announced on Jan. 15. "The petition process, by contrast, is intended to address the narrow circumstance when a person called to candidacy has not been raised up through the Discernment Committee process," the Standing Committee's announcement explained.

The petition period will open on Jan. 15, 2014, when the final slate of candidates is announced, and will close on Jan. 31, 2014. The requirements for petition process candidates are detailed on the independent election Web site, www.mabishopsearch.org.

Ministry Discernment Conference registration is open

Online registration is open through Jan. 17 for the annual **Ministry Discernment Conference** offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry. More information and the registration link are available [here](#). The conference will be held on *Saturday, Feb. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. (The snow date is Feb. 8. Please check www.diomass.org for notice.) The conference provides an in-depth look at the 2014 Ministry Discernment Handbook and gives potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts and to explore whether their call is to ordained ministry or committed lay ministry.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Office of Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext 514 or edie@diomass.org).

February Gospel Vesper Service to honor Bishop Barbara C. Harris

The diocese will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Bishop Barbara C. Harris's consecration as the Anglican Communion's first female bishop with a special Gospel Vesper Service on *Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, 4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Details will be forthcoming.

fyi is online at www.diomass.org ([News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [fyi](#)).

Sign up for monthly "E-news" [here](#) and find past issues [here](#).

*The Diocese of Massachusetts is on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/diomass.*

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.

- **Applications for 2014 United Thank Offering (UTO) Grants** will be available Jan. 3. Grant information and criteria are posted on the Episcopal Church's Web site, in English and Spanish, [here](#). All applications must be submitted to the local Diocese of Massachusetts screening committee by Jan. 24.
FOR INFORMATION: Betty Murray, UTO coordinator for the Diocese of Massachusetts (617-332-5939 or eg.murray@verizon.net).
- **"Epiphany Papers: What is This New Thing?":** This year's "Epiphany Papers" series will explore themes of Christian symbols, old and new, and spiritual growth, using Scripture, poetry and a newly produced video focusing on the nautilus pediment sculpture unveiled at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul this past May. The series will be available for download from the diocesan Web site, for use in Epiphany by individuals or small groups.
FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Resource Center (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).
- **Congregational leadership report and lay delegate certification forms for 2014** have been mailed to all rectors or other priests in charge of congregations. The forms are pre-printed with the information currently in the diocesan database. Congregations are asked to update the information on these forms and return them to the Office of Convention and Council within 10 days of their annual meeting, as required by diocesan canons, but no later than the **deadline of Feb. 28**. Delegates will serve at both the April 5 special convention to elect a bishop and the November annual Diocesan Convention.
FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).
- This year's **Pre-Lenten Retreat for diocesan clergy** will be held *Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 25-27* at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich. The featured speaker will be the Rev. Brian C. Taylor, an Episcopal priest in Albuquerque, author and experienced leader of retreats, clergy conferences and CREDO conferences. Details and registration information will be sent directly to clergy.
FOR INFORMATION: Marsha Searle, Bishop Gayle Harris's Office (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org) or Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).
- **Spring Learning Days** will offer three different workshop tracks for parishes led by the Congregational Business Consultants, Global Mission partnerships and the Mission Institute. These workshops will be offered *9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Feb. 22, March 1, 8 and 22*. Locations are still being finalized, and all information and registration will be online in mid-January. Churches interesting in hosting a learning day may contact Amy Cook (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- Applications are being accepted for **Mission Tithe Matching Grants**: New concept papers are due Jan. 15, with concepts and applications accepted until the 15th of each month thereafter. Staff assistance with congregational discernment and document preparation is available. Contact Laura Walta (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).

Applications for Congregational Development Grants, Deanery (Sending Serving and House of Mercy) and Creation Care Initiative (Green) Grants will be available in mid-February. Watch for more information in the February FYI.

FOR GENERAL GRANT INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).

- **“Green” project technical assistance** is now available through a new partnership with Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light: Colby May will be available to assist with energy management and conservation issues within diocesan congregations. Any congregation considering “green” improvements or in need of assistance on a current project may contact Esther Powell (as below) to be connected with consultant assistance. *FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).*

- **Safe Church Training** will be offered on these *Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Jan. 11* at St. John’s Church in Beverly Farms and *March 22* at St. Paul’s Church in Nantucket. Registration can be done online [here](#).

Anyone interested in becoming a Safe Church group trainer may be in touch with the Rev. Karen Montagno (as below) to learn more about the training process starting this spring.

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Dec. 5 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a presentation from Christ Church/Iglesia San Juan, Hyde Park.

Heard a report from treasurer Jim Gammill and voted to approve and accept the Investment Policy Statement as prepared by the Financial Advisory Committee.

Voted that the treasurer identify readily available funds for the ongoing bishop search and transition activities, and that the treasurer be authorized to withdraw from the unrestricted diocesan endowment any additional funds (not to exceed \$375,000) required to fund the search and transition budget.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Voted to authorize signers on diocesan Eastern Bank and Fidelity cash reserves accounts.

Voted to approve clergy housing allowances.

Voted a resolution expressing gratitude to former chief business officer Richard Strout.

Voted its intention that the funds from the sale of the former St. Paul's Church, Brockton continue to be held in reserve outside of the process for use of proceeds from the sale of closed churches, and the intention that the funds be used to support the developing ministry of Grace Chapel in Brockton, with stipulations for requesting and granting the funds.

Heard a report from the chair of the Transition Committee, the Rev. Julian Fredie.

Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on budgets for the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub and the Merrimack Valley Mission Hub, and voted to authorize up to \$25,000 for start-up costs for Merrimack Valley.

Heard a presentation and update on redevelopment plans for the property of the former Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret in Allston.

Voted to reappoint the Rev. Jane Bearden, Lisa Garcia and the Rev. Stephen Voysey to the Budget Committee.

Voted to reappoint the Rev. George Stevens and Jane White to the Financial Advisory Committee.

Voted to approve a 2 percent raise for the diocesan staff.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 24-25 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.*

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

The MARKETPLACE:

Stairlift: Grace Church in Everett has a stairlift to give away to a church or individual in need of one. It will require a new track to fit the new venue. Details upon request.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Barbara Smith-Moran (smithmoran@earthlink.net).

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted: [sexton](#) at Emmanuel Church in Wakefield; [chief business officer](#) for the Diocese of Massachusetts; [parish administrator](#) at St. John's Church in Franklin; [youth mission coordinator](#) for the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub; [music director](#) at St. Christopher's Church in Chatham; [development assistant](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; [director](#) of the South Coast Mission Hub; [organist-choir director](#) at Grace Church in Vineyard Haven; [nursery care provider](#) at St. John's Church in Arlington; and [project coordinator](#) for Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.

**PARISH SEARCH
& CALL REPORT**

Go to www.diomass.org for
details (Resources for Congrega-
tions & Clergy > Congregation &
Clergy Support > [Clergy Deploy-
ment/Transition Ministry](#)).

Communication regarding
deployment and parish tran-
sitions should be directed to
the Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste
Ntagengwa (617/482-4826,
ext. 400 or [jbntagengwa@
diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org)).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

JAMAICA PLAIN, St. John's Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

AMESBURY, St. James's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

ANDOVER, Christ Church

BOSTON, The Crossing at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul
(contact priestsearch@thecrossing.org)

CHESTNUT HILL, Church of the Redeemer

NEWTON, Grace Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

NEEDHAM, Christ Church

OTHER POSITIONS OPEN TO CLERGY:

MEDFORD, Grace Church: assistant rector. Contact the Rev.
Noah Evans (781-396-7215 or noah@gracemedford.org).

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The
submission deadline for the Feb. 5 issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 29
at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

A note about *fyi* distribution: The diocesan database generates the *fyi* distribution list according to these category designations: clergy, wardens, diocesan leadership and Diocesan Convention delegates. If you are receiving *fyi*, it is because you are a member of at least one of the aforementioned categories.