



Wednesday, June 3, 2015

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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Diocesan Convention planning is underway

**Nov. 13:
Cathedral rededication
and official seating of
Bishop Gates**

**Nov. 14: Full day of regular
Diocesan Convention business**

The newly renovated Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will be rededicated and Bishop Alan M. Gates will be officially seated during a service of Holy Eucharist on *Friday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.* A full day of regular Diocesan Convention business will follow on *Saturday, Nov. 14.*

Preliminary Diocesan Convention information will be e-mailed later this month to all clergy, delegates and lay leaders for whom there are e-mail addresses on file. Delegates and clergy whose e-mail address has changed since their congregation's annual meeting should e-mail updated contact information by June 17 to lsimons@diomass.org.

All resolutions, nominations for diocesan elections, proposed constitutional and canonical amendments and committee reports are due by *Friday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m.* No late nominations or resolutions will be accepted after this deadline.

Pre-convention forums in October will offer an important opportunity for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including resolutions and the proposed budget. Forums are scheduled to take place from *7 to 9 p.m. on:*

- *Wednesday, Oct. 28* at Christ Church (14 School Street) in Medway;
- *Thursday, Oct. 29* at St. Peter's Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay;
- *Tuesday, Nov. 3* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and
- *Wednesday, Nov. 4* at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield.

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

Acting chief of staff named

Bishop Alan M. Gates has announced that he has appointed the Rev. Sam Rodman to serve as acting chief of staff, effective July 1.

Rodman has most recently served as project manager for campaign initiatives, coordinating the implementation of mission hubs and numerous other projects throughout the diocese. Since January he has also supported parish life through work with the congregational development staff.

As acting chief of staff, he will carry out staff supervision; coordinate plans for Diocesan Convention and clergy days; assist Diocesan Council, Standing Committee and other leadership groups; and support a host of programmatic events and diocesan ministries.

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As [previously announced](#), the Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd, Canon to the Ordinary, will step down in mid-September. As acting chief of staff, Rodman will temporarily assume most duties of the canon to the ordinary, retaining those duties until a new canon to the ordinary is named. He will not continue in the permanent position.

In appointing Rodman to this post, Gates said, “Sam Rodman has the trust and deep respect of the diocesan staff and those throughout the diocese with whom he has worked for many years. I am so grateful that we will be served by his organizational acumen, pastoral heart, devotion to the Diocese of Massachusetts and long-standing relationships, near and far.”

CHURCHWIDE:

- In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established June 20 as **World Refugee Day**. Episcopal dioceses and congregations are invited to #ShareTheJourney with the Episcopal Church’s network of resettlement agencies by marking World Refugee Day through an event, prayer service or other activity. Worship materials for use on Sunday, June 21 and more information are available [here](#).

- The House of Deputies **State of the Church** Committee has submitted its triennial report to be presented to the Episcopal Church’s General Convention, June 25-July 3, in Salt Lake City. Congregations are encouraged to distribute the information so that Episcopalians across the church will gain an awareness of the state of their church. A report summary, with a link to the full report, is available via Forward Movement, [here](#).

- At the request of the General Convention Liturgy Team, the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge is offering a **social media initiative, #prayersof**, that invites everyone from around the globe to **add prayers in words and images to the Prayers of the People during the Episcopal Church’s General Convention**, June 25-July 3, in Salt Lake City. Each day, a number of submitted prayers will be incorporated into the spoken liturgy of that day’s General Convention worship.

To add a prayer, use the hashtag #prayersof on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Anyone posting a public prayer in words or images will have that prayer included on the prayer Web site www.prayersofthepeople.org.

The hashtag #prayersof will be based on the seven classic forms identified in *The Book of Common Prayer*—thanksgiving, praise, intercession, adoration, oblation, penitence and petition—with themes of life and celebration added to complete the nine daily services of Eucharist at General Convention. See www.prayersofthepeople.org for more information.

NOTES:

● On *Sunday, June 7, 4-6 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit (525 River Street) in Mattapan, the Friends of Masakane is hosting a **program to support the Masakane Trust**—an organization in South Africa that trains women from impoverished areas to become pre-school teachers in the townships. Members of four diocesan parishes and two associated pre-school programs visited the Masakane training center last July, as well as many of the pre-schools started by the teachers. The group is eager to share its experiences with others. There will be choral and dance performances, as well as brief presentations about the Masakane, followed by refreshments. There is no charge to attend, but donations will be greatly appreciated.

FOR INFORMATION: Kathy Bombara, Friends of Masakane (knbombara@rcn.com).

● **Part-time and bivocational clergy are invited to gather for conversation and sharing** about the joys and challenges of their ministry at one of a series of regional gatherings hosted by clergy colleagues and the diocesan congregational development staff. The gatherings will offer a chance to learn from one another's experiences as well as to offer feedback to the diocesan staff about how priests and congregations seeking to live into part-time and bivocational ministry situations might be better supported. The Rev. Canon Libby Berman, Canon for Congregations, will be present to answer questions and to relay suggestions and feedback to Bishop Alan M. Gates as part of his "listening year."

Gatherings are scheduled on:

- *Friday, June 12, 5 p.m.*, at the diocesan offices (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- *Sunday, June 14, 2 p.m.*, at Karma Japanese and Chinese Fusion Cuisine (174 Littleton Road) in Westford; and
- *Thursday, June 18, 10 a.m.*, at All Saints' Church (44 Park Avenue) in Whitman. A September gathering (date still to be determined) will also be offered at St. Peter's Church in Dartmouth.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: The Rev. Suzanne Wade (508-472-9656 or revsuzanne@ gmail.com) or The Rev. Canon Libby Berman (617-482-4826, ext. 430 or lberman@diomass.org).

● Bishop Alan M. Gates and The Crossing community of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will lead the diocesan contingent of walkers and the Episcopal Church float in **Boston's Pride Parade** on *Saturday, June 13*. Everyone is invited to join the celebration. Banners and signs are encouraged, as is clerical wear for clergy. Those planning to walk with the diocesan group will meet in Copley Square at 11 a.m. (exact line-up location not yet available), with the parade scheduled to start at noon. Anyone may simply join the group at the beginning of the parade route, but advance notice is encouraged to help the organizers with logistics.

FOR INFORMATION: Matt Gesicki, The Crossing (matt@thecrossingboston.org).

- The June 19-20 **“Bowdoin Street Valedictory” weekend** to celebrate the history and legacy of the Church of St. John the Evangelist (35 Bowdoin Street) in Boston **has been postponed**. New dates are still being determined and will be announced. *FOR INFORMATION: Amanda Goodman, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 580 or agoodman@diomass.org).*

- There are only a few spaces left for the **launch week of the 2015-2016 Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)**, July 26-Aug. 1, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Designed for young leaders entering ninth or tenth grade this fall, this special program provides a weeklong leadership development and faith formation program, plus all that summer camp has to offer. At the end of the week, participants are introduced to the yearlong Youth Leadership Academy and invited to continue, but signing up for the YLA week at camp doesn't require committing to the yearlong program. Register directly online [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org); www.diomassyouth.org.*

- Applications for the 2015-2016 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) are now available online [here](#). Applications are due *Monday, Aug. 31*. Members of the DYC act as the official youth presence at Diocesan Convention. They also work throughout the year to plan and run diocesan youth events and work to make the church a nurturing Christian community that encourages the spiritual growth of young people. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org); www.diomassyouth.org.*

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Introduction to adult faith formation programs:** Clergy and lay adult formation leaders are invited to a luncheon introducing some newer Episcopal programs that are helping grow the spiritual life and capacity of adult Episcopalians. Although concentrating on two Episcopal programs, “Living Compass” and “Episcopal Renewalworks,” the session will touch on other helpful programs as well. This meeting is designed to help churches find programs that fit best. The free luncheon takes place on *Tuesday, June 23, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.*, at the diocesan offices (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. *FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).*

- Educators, clergy, parents and vestry members are invited to a luncheon to discuss best practices for **welcoming families with special needs** into their churches. How do churches welcome and teach children with either physical or cognitive disabilities? What resources are available to churches? What about practical considerations such as the building, safe church policies and added program costs? Those from churches who are asking these questions, or have had experience in this area, are invited to come and share with others who are exploring best practices and real life stories from around the diocese. This free luncheon takes place on *Tuesday, June 30, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the diocesan offices (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- The Center for Progressive Renewal's **National Church Leadership Institute conference** will be held this year at Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton Center, *Aug. 10-13*.

This is a conference about growing churches that are outwardly and mission focused, with the program focusing on five "trendlines" and what they mean for the church of the future. There is also a pre-conference intensive learning day with in-depth workshops for those who want some specific training in practical areas for building up the church. Conference and registration information is available at <http://ncli15.org/>.

- Fall dates for **Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program training**, with trainer Heidi Clark and hosted at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham, have been set:

- *Friday, Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m.*: Introduction to J2A; and
- *Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*: J2A Basic Training.

Registration will open this summer for this diocesan-sponsored training.

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- "God the Giver" is the theme for The Episcopal Network for Stewardship's (TENS) annual pledge campaign for 2015. Based on the resources of this campaign, a no-cost, half-day **workshop for lay stewardship leaders and clergy** will be offered on *Saturday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit (525 River Street) in Mattapan. The workshop will offer Bible study, reflections and practical recommendations to strengthen (or start) a congregation's annual pledge campaign. There will be additional guidance on making financial stewardship an integral and year-round program of spiritual and missional growth for congregations of all sizes.

The workshop leader will be Richard Felton, the executive director of TENS. He brings energy and a wealth of experience in

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stewardship, management and fundraising to TENS, having worked with churches, schools and other nonprofit organizations across the country. Online registration will be available soon.

The Diocese of Massachusetts is a diocesan member of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, allowing congregations of the diocese access to the full array of TENS online resources. To view the “God the Giver Series” go to www.tens.org/resources/member-resources and enter (all lowercase) username: living; password: generously.

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org) or Lynd Matt, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or lmatt@diomass.org).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Simple Acts of Stewardship Grants**, part of the [Creation Care Initiative](#), support congregational activities and programs that focus on the environment and conservation and are built on appreciation of and gratitude for blessings. Simple Acts Grants now **can be used as matching grants (50 percent of the total cost) for building audits** that assess a church’s energy efficiency opportunities, such as Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light’s environmental stewardship assessments. Grant applications are accepted and awarded on a rolling basis, and are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).*

- Applications are accepted monthly for **Mission Tithe Matching Grants**. There are separate applications available for youth mission trips and second-year grants for work with continuing mission partners. Concept papers and applications from congregations with previously approved concepts are due June 15, and on a rolling basis by the 15th of each month thereafter. Staff assistance with congregational discernment and document preparation is available. Application materials are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).*

- Applications for **2015 Deanery Grants** are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).*

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ACTIONS:**

At its May 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on mission hubs, including an update on the budget for the proposed Roxbury-Dorchester hub and the application for the proposed Boston-Cambridge hub.

Welcomed new member Win Treese, representing the Concord River Deanery.

Heard a report from diocesan treasurer, Jim Gammill.

Voted to pledge \$600,000 from the General Endowment Fund over three years to support funding for the mission hubs, and authorized the following transfers among endowment funds into the General Endowment Fund: \$400,000 from the St. John's East Boston Fund; \$100,000 from the Jennie F. Getchell Fund; and \$100,000 from the Holy Nativity Seekonk Fund.

Voted to move the remaining balance of the above funds into the Fund for Congregational Vitality.

Voted that the Diocesan Council remembers the three parishes, now closed, whose ministry and service created the legacy represented in part by the above resources: St. John's Church, East Boston; the Church of Our Saviour, Roslindale; and the Church of the Holy Nativity, Seekonk.

Voted to allocate the proceeds from the repayment of the mortgage loan made by the diocese to St. David's Church, Pepperell (now closed) totaling \$38,935, to the Use of Proceeds Grants account.

Heard a report on the 2016 assessment notices that will be going out to congregations the first week of June.

Heard an update on 2016 budget preparations.

Heard an update on the housing process for Bishop Gates.

Voted to approve a grant from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches, in the amount of \$35,000, to Christ Church in Medway for its kitchen renovation project.

Heard an Annual Fund update from the development director, Lynd Matt.

Heard an update about the 2016 diocesan mission strategy process from the Rev. Canon Libby Berman.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, June 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston.

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

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [Safe Church coordinator](#) for the Diocese of Massachusetts; [lead science teacher](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; [director of Christian education](#) at St. Thomas's Church in Taunton; [minister of music](#) at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [youth ministry director](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Marblehead; [program director](#) for the Metrowest Mission Hub; [director of youth ministries](#) at St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth; [music director](#) at Christ Church in Waltham; and two positions, [interim organist](#) and [parish administrator](#), at Emmanuel Church in Boston.

**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:

None at this time.

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

DOVER, St. Dunstan's Church
NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church
SANDWICH, St. John's Church
WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd
WESTON, St. Peter's Church (pilot search project)

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

SOUTH YARMOUTH, St. David's Church
SWANSEA, Christ Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

DEDHAM, St. Paul's Church
JAMAICA PLAIN, St. John's Church
LYNNFIELD, St. Paul's Church
NANTUCKET, St. Paul's Church

OTHER POSITIONS OPEN TO CLERGY:

NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church: [Curate](#).
WELLESLEY, St. Andrew's Church: [Assistant/Associate Rector](#).

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. William J. Bradbury has been called as rector of All Saints' Church in Chelmsford, where he has been serving as priest-in-charge.

The Rev. John de Beer will retire as rector of St. Mark's Church in Burlington on June 14.

Eric Litman (to be ordained a transitional deacon on June 6) has been called as assistant rector of St. James's Church in Cambridge, starting June 1.

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The Rev. Christopher R. Morck has been called as rector of Grace Church in New Bedford, where he has been serving as priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Audrey O'Brien has been appointed interim priest of St. Dunstan's Church in Dover, starting June 1.

Brian Raiche (to be received as an Episcopal priest on June 6) has been called as associate rector of Trinity Church in Haverhill, starting June 6.

Noah Van Niel (to be ordained a transitional deacon on June 6) has been called as curate of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, starting June 20.

The Rev. Rachel Wildman has been called as assistant rector of St. Paul's Church in Bedford.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the July 1 issue is the previous **Wednesday, June 24, at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
