



Wednesday, July 1, 2015

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

Mission strategy design team named

Bishop Alan M. Gates has appointed a six-member design team to initiate the process that will lead to a new mission strategy for the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Members of the design team include three Diocesan Council members, Billy Boyce of Grace Church in New Bedford, Jim Daniell of All Saints Parish in Brookline and the Rev. Meghan Sweeney, Priest-in-Charge of All Saints' Church in Attleboro, along with the Rev. Thea Keith Lucas, Episcopal Chaplain at MIT, the Rev. Derrick Muwina, Vicar of All Saints' Church in West Newbury, and John Woodard, a congregational consultant and member of St. Paul's Church in Dedham. The Rev. Canon Libby Berman, Canon for Congregations, will be the team's staff facilitator.

As the process progresses from design to implementation, the bishop and Diocesan Council will add members to the ongoing team as needed.

In consultation with the bishop and the Diocesan Council's Executive Committee, the newly appointed design team begins work this summer to design the process for collecting input from across the diocese. It will make progress reports to the Diocesan Council in September and October and plans to present to the Diocesan Convention in November the listening process it has designed and any resolutions needed to implement it.

The input gathered through that listening process will then inform the drafting of the eventual mission strategy, to be presented for Diocesan Convention's approval in November of 2016. Read more [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Libby Berman, Congregational Development (617-482-4826, ext. 430 or lberman@diomass.org).

Diocesan Convention materials due Sept. 18

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 materials were sent to delegates and clergy on June 18 and also are posted [here](#).

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.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

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).

NOTES:

- **Summer hours during July and August** at the diocesan and cathedral offices at 138 Tremont Street in Boston are: *Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*, with staff members working extended hours those days. The offices will be closed on Fridays. Regular Monday-Friday office hours resume after Labor Day on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

- **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.

- The diocesan Treasurer's Office reminds congregations that **personal pledges made from donor advised funds are not allowable** under IRS regulations and doing so is subject to a significant tax penalty. Distributions to organizations from such funds are considered charitable donations from the fund and not the original donor; hence, the recordkeeping needs to provide for a distinction between personal and fund pledges. Questions about donor advised funds should be directed to the congregation's financial advisor or to the diocesan Treasurer's Office, as below. FOR INFORMATION: *Gerry Sullivan, Treasurer's Office* (617-482-4826, ext. 554 or gsullivan@diomass.org).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- Former archbishop of Canterbury, the Rev. Dr. **Rowan Williams**, will give the **annual Evelyn Underhill Lecture in Christian Spirituality** at Boston College on *Saturday, July 11 at 10 a.m.* The event is free and open to the public. Registration is requested at www.bc.edu/stmce or by calling 617-552-6501.

Williams's lecture, "What the Outsider Sees: Teresa of Avila and Marilynne Robinson on Knowing God," will reflect on the question of what the outsider brings to prayer and theology, suggesting how one might bring Teresa into conversation with the insights of Marilynne Robinson's fiction, in which the perception of faith by the marginal person is consistently crucial.

The event is co-sponsored by the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and the Institute of Carmelite Studies.

- The Leadership Development Initiative, Life Together, Episcopal City Mission, the Mission Institute and the diocesan congregational development staff team will host the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra for a **day-long training, "This is What the Church is Made For: Embracing the Prophetic Tradition,"** to take place on *Thursday, Aug. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*, at the Reggie Lewis Center at Roxbury Community College.

Through teaching, storytelling and small-group work, Salvatierra will inspire and equip participants to understand and be drawn into the Christian prophetic tradition of faith-rooted organizing. This training is for staff, organizers and other leaders in faith-based, social justice-focused community organizations and networks, and churches with community engagement and outreach programs. Cost for the day, including breakfast and lunch, is \$25 per person. [RSVP here.](#)

FOR INFORMATION: Isaac Martinez, Leadership Development Initiative (issac@lditeam.org); www.leadership-development-initiative.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 stewardship, management and fundraising to TENS, having worked with churches, schools and other nonprofit organizations across the country. Online registration is open [here](#).

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).

- The Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard is collaborating with Union Presbyterian Seminary and Denver’s Illiff School of Theology to sponsor **“Why Christian?”--a three-day conference**, *Sept. 18-20*, at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Minneapolis. The conference will feature keynote speakers Rachel Held Evans and Nadia Bolz-Weber. Led by an ecumenical and diverse gathering of young women who are church leaders devoted to Christian storytelling, the conference is organized around the provocative question: “Why, in the wake of centuries of corruption, hypocrisy, crusades, televangelists and puppet ministries, do we continue to follow Jesus?”

The Rev. Luther Zeigler, Episcopal Chaplain at Harvard, will be leading a group of Harvard students attending the conference. More information is available [here](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- The severe winter weather of early 2015 caused financial hardship for many congregations. To assist them, **one-time winter expense grants** of up to a maximum of \$500 per congregation are available. To qualify, a congregation incurring additional expenses, such as snow removal or storm damage repair, that exceed 15 percent of the amount budgeted for the 2015 winter period, and that can be attributed to the storms that occurred in January through March of 2015. Grants are for costs not covered by insurance.

Congregations are asked to submit a written request, using the form provided [here](#). The request should also include documentation, such as invoice copies or financial reports that indicate the overage amount. **All requests should be submitted by Sept. 15.** Grants will be disbursed in mid-October.

FOR INFORMATION: Dana Courtney, Treasurer's Office (617-482-4826, ext. 553 or dcourtney@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its June 4 meeting, the Executive Committee voted in regard to Bishop Gates's housing (as authorized by Diocesan Council at its April 30 meeting) to authorize the purchase of 47 Commercial Wharf, Unit 6, Boston, for \$1,400,016. The assistant treasurer, Gerry Sullivan, is authorized to sign all necessary documents on behalf of the diocese to complete this transaction.

At its June 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from the St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Executive Committee.

Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on mission hubs, including an update from members of the proposed Boston-Cambridge hub, and voted to site the Roxbury-Dorchester Hub with a first-year budget of \$131,650.

Heard a report from diocesan treasurer, Jim Gammill.

Voted to implement an adjustment to Bishop Gates's cash compensation.

Voted to appoint Mary Gardill to the Diocesan Loan Committee.

Heard a report about winter expense grants to be offered to congregations to help offset extraordinary expenses over this past winter.

Heard an update about the 2016 budget process.

Heard that the 2014 audit is complete.

Heard a report from the Rev. Canon Libby Berman about parishes in arrears on their assessments.

Heard an update about the mission strategy process.

Heard an update about St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Heard an update from the director of development, Lynd Matt, on this year's Annual Fund.

Voted to express its thanks and gratitude to the churches that have hosted Diocesan Council meetings while the Cathedral Church of St. Paul has been under renovation, including Christ Church in Quincy, Emmanuel Church in Boston, the Church of the Advent in Boston and Trinity Church in Boston.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham. FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).*

The MARKETPLACE:

Fireproof file cabinets: Four fireproof file cabinets are available, free, from the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston (street pick-up by recipient(s) required). Each of the four-drawer cabinets is approximately 54 inches high by 20 inches wide by 30 inches deep and weighs at least 350 pounds. The cabinets are cement lined and rated for one hour in inferno conditions. *FOR INFORMATION: Jim Woodworth, Facilities, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 230 or jwoodworth@diomass.org).*

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [interim music director](#) at Grace Church in Newton; [youth ministry administrator](#) for the Diocese of Massachusetts; [director of development](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; [parish administrator](#) at St. Dunstan's Church in Dover; [youth minister](#) at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury; [parish administrator](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waban; [director of stewardship](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; [director of children and youth education](#) at St. Mark's Church in Southborough; [Safe Church coordinator](#) for the Diocese of Massachusetts; [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; [director of youth ministries](#) at St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth; [interim organist](#) at Emmanuel Church in Boston; [coordinator of children's and family ministries](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [financial administrator](#) at the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill; two positions, [director of formation](#) and [youth minister](#), at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; and [sexton](#) at St. Paul's Church in Natick.

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. Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa (617/482-4826, ext. 400 or 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
WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd
WESTON, St. Peter's Church (pilot search project)

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

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

OTHER POSITIONS OPEN TO CLERGY:

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

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Kathleen McAdams has been appointed as bridge priest at St. Mark's Church in Burlington starting June 21.

NEXT fyi:

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