



Wednesday, Dec. 2, 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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**Everyone's voice needed
at mission strategy
forums**

It's time to create a new diocesan mission strategy, and everyone's voice is needed. Members of the diocesan community are invited to attend one or more of the six open listening forums scheduled in January and February—opportunities to share insights and experiences and imagine the future together.

Information regarding translation services and opportunities to participate through online and phone surveys will be forthcoming. Check www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy for updates.

Open forums will be held in 2016 on:

- *Sunday, Jan. 10, 2 p.m.*, at St. Mary's Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable;
- *Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.*, at St. Paul's Church (39 East Central Street) in Natick;
- *Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.*, at Christ Church (33 Central Street) in Andover;
- *Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.*, at Grace Church (422 County Street) in New Bedford;
- *Thursday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.*, at St. Thomas's Church (111 High Street) in Taunton; and
- *Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

A **bulletin insert** for use in congregations is available [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Mission Strategy Listening Process Design Team at diomasslistening@gmail.com; www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

**Mission strategy discussion
guide available for youth and
young adults**

The Mission Strategy Listening Process Design Team and Office of Youth Ministry have created a "Guide to Prepare Youth and Young Adults," a tool to help prepare young people to participate fully in the mission strategy listening process. Access the guide [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hsmith@diomass.org).

**2016 Epiphany Papers
available in mid-December**

"Epiphany Papers" are back for 2016. These downloadable studies are suited for adult education, coffee hour discussions or personal reflections. They follow the lectionary readings for the five Sundays of Epiphany and this year are themed to support the mission strategy listening process underway in the diocese: How does Scripture inform the process? How do we understand our church's mission? How do we keep ourselves open to what God is saying to us? These studies will be available for download at www.diomass.org/epiphany-papers in mid-December.

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

**Registration is open for
Ministry Discernment
Conference**

The Ministry Discernment Conference offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry will be held this year on *Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. (The snow date is Feb. 13, 2016. Please check www.diomass.org for announcement.)

The conference provides an in-depth look at the 2016 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.

Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2016 is required to attend the conference, along with his or her sponsoring priest and at least one member of the Parish Discernment Committee. Discernment committees, one member of which must be a member of the vestry, are appointed by the sponsoring priest and should be named before the conference so that as many members as wish to may attend. Inquirers are also encouraged to bring their spouses or partners to the conference.

Online registration is required, and is open through Jan. 15, 2016, [here](#).

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

**Liturgical authoriza-
tions announced for
new year**

The Episcopal Church's 2015 General Convention authorized a revised and expanded edition of marriage rites for all couples, *Liturgical Resources 1: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing*, for trial use "under the direction and with the permission of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority" beginning the first Sunday in Advent, Nov. 29.

Bishop Alan M. Gates has authorized the use of these rites in the Diocese of Massachusetts. They are now available from Church Publishing Inc., [here](#). They are also included in the report to the General Convention by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, [here](#).

Bishop Gates has also endorsed General Convention's authorization of a trial addition to the Baptismal Covenant of a sixth question and answer concerning the responsibility of Christians to care for God's creation, worded as follows: "*Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation? I will, with God's help.*" The additional question and response are authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the 2016-2018 triennium.

**Join B-PEACE at Dec. 9
gun violence vigil**

Join members of the diocese's B-PEACE campaign and the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence for a candle-lit vigil to remember victims of gun violence and help shine a light on its tragic toll. The vigil will be held on *Wednesday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.*, at First Church (66 Marlborough Street) in Boston. The vigil coincides with the national Gun Sabbath Weekend.

FOR INFORMATION: *Maureen Burns, St. Stephen's Church, Boston* (maureen@ststephensbos.org).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

“Advent Quiet Day: Breathe. Light. Voice.” is an opportunity for youth and youth ministry volunteers and staff to enter into the spirit of Advent through workshops on contemplative prayer, meditation and creative writing: *Saturday, Dec. 12, 1:30-5:30 p.m.* (please note time change from previous announcements), at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The event is presented by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry in partnership with MANNA and the Black Seed Writers Group. A meal and open mic session will offer opportunities for participants to share their reflections from the day. There is a registration fee of \$5 per participant; register online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

The **2016 High School Retreat** will take place *Feb. 5-7* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. The weekend retreat features small-group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, music by the band Fever Fever and time apart from everyday life to pay more attention to the Spirit of God in our lives. There will also be a chance for participants to contribute to the diocesan mission strategy by participating in a youth-focused forum hosted by the Mission Strategy Listening Process Design Team. Bus transportation is available, as are scholarships. Registration closes when capacity is reached, or Feb. 1, 2016. Register online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Board of the United Thank Offering (UTO) is challenging Episcopalians to **support refugee welcome in the United States through its 2015 Ingathering Challenge**. The UTO will match the first \$30,000 given by Dec. 31, to benefit [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), the church’s refugee resettlement network.

“Jesus was part of a refugee family,” UTO board president Sandra Squires said in a media release from the Episcopal Church’s Office of Public Affairs. “For Advent and Christmas 2015, Episcopalians are asked to express gratitude with increased prayers of thanksgiving and daily giving to their Blue Boxes in remembrance of Jesus and today’s refugees.”

Gifts can be made online [here](#) (choose “UTO for EMM Challenge” in the drop-down menu).

- Applications are now available for 2016-2017 placements in the **Young Adult Service Corps**, commonly known as YASC. Currently YASC missionaries are serving throughout the Anglican Communion and in several international dioceses of the Episcopal Church. They are working in administration, agriculture, chaplaincies, development and education, and in parish-based and refugee ministries. Application information is available [here](#). The application deadline is *Friday, Jan. 8, 2016*.

NOTES:

- **Actions from the 2015 Diocesan Convention** are available online, along with links to videos, photos and other coverage. Find them at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2015.
 - **Life Together is now accepting applications** for fellowships that begin in August 2016. Life Together is a 10-month fellowship and leadership development project that matches young leaders (21-32 years of age) with mission-based nonprofit organizations, schools and churches throughout eastern Massachusetts. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; the **early decision deadline is Dec. 18**. To apply, e-mail a cover letter and resume to apply@diomassintern.org.
 - The diocesan and cathedral offices at 138 Tremont Street in Boston will be **closed for the holidays Thursday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Jan. 1**. The offices will re-open for regular business hours on Monday, Jan. 4.
 - At the request of several congregations that are looking to start or augment their **online giving capabilities**, the diocesan Office of Development has arranged the following special offer from Vanco Payment Solutions, which is one of several online service providers used by congregations: Vanco will waive the \$50 set-up fee for any giving plan and waive three months of the service fee (up to \$170 in savings) for congregations that sign up by Jan. 31, 2016. More information about Vanco can be found at www.VancoPayments.com. For specific questions or to sign up, call Ginna Marston, Senior Sales Consultant, at 800-675-7430, ext. 8103; mention the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts offer.
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ONLINE GIVING: Lynd Matt, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or lmatt@diomass.org).
 - The **Pre-Lenten Retreat for diocesan clergy** will be held Feb. 2-4, 2016 (beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday and ending at 12 p.m. on Thursday), at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich. The retreat leader will be announced. Details and registration information will be sent directly to the clergy.
FOR INFORMATION: Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org).
 - There will be two **Pre-Confirmation Retreats this spring for adults** who are considering confirmation in the Episcopal Church: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016, and Saturday, April 2, 2016. Locations are still being decided. Either Bishop Alan M. Gates or Bishop Gayle E. Harris will be with present for part of each retreat day.
FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).
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TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Refugee Ministry 101: Getting Started:** This information-sharing gathering is for members of the diocesan community who are concerned about the ongoing global refugee crisis and want to learn more about how to respond. It takes place on *Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org).

- **Youth Mental Health First Aid** is a training for youth workers, offered *Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.*, at Grace Church (160 High Street) in Medford. Presented by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry in partnership with Grace Church, this course enables adults who work with youth to identify risk factors and warning signs in teens, and offer assistance to young people experiencing mental health, substance abuse and other crises. The course is open to all youth workers from across the diocese, but space is limited. Register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- **“Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice” is the focus of the 2016 Trinity Institute**—an annual theological conference offered by Trinity Church, Wall Street in New York City, and Webcast to registered local sites around the country. The conference takes place *Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 21-24, 2016*, and will feature *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof, actor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith, Vanderbilt Divinity School dean Emilie Townes and Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, among others.

The Diocese of Massachusetts, the Mission Institute and Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) are partnering this year to provide a local viewing site at EDS (99 Brattle Street) in Cambridge, where all aspects of the conference will be offered in real time via Webcast. Participants can submit questions via e-mail, and, following each session, local leaders will guide participants deeper into the material through activities and reflection groups. To register or learn more, visit www.eds.edu/listen.

An additional local viewing site will be hosted by Province I of the Episcopal Church at St. Mary’s Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable. Questions may be directed to Julie Lytle at executive.director@province1.org.

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

- The Diocese of Massachusetts' B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign has joined the national **Do Not Stand Idly By** campaign, which aims to use the purchasing power of local and state governments to encourage gun manufacturers to insist on high standards of security for all their dealers and to invest in development of "smart-gun" technology to create safer guns. More information about the campaign is available [here](#).

A local training to learn more about Do Not Stand Idly By, including how individuals and congregations can support the effort, will be offered on *Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, from 2 to 5 p.m.*, at a location to be announced. Questions may be e-mailed to bpeace@ststephensbos.org.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **United Thank Offering (UTO) 2016 grant applications are now available** at www.unitedthankoffering.org. All UTO grant applications must be submitted to the diocesan screening committee, in care of the diocesan UTO coordinator, Betty Murray, by *Monday, Jan. 4, 2016*.

Young adult project grants are again available, but this year the board will select the top 10 applications overall instead of awarding one per province. Young adult grants are for projects led by people aged 21-30, not for projects that minister to that age group.

Also new this year are UTO grants for seminarians, to fund projects at their field education site or in their home diocese. *FOR INFORMATION/SEND APPLICATIONS TO: Betty Murray, diocesan UTO coordinator (617-332-5939 or eg.murray@verizon.net).*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) 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: three positions on the diocesan staff, [canon to the ordinary](#), [controller](#) and [gifts processor](#); [Sunday school coordinator](#) at the Church of Our Saviour in Arlington; two positions, [music director](#) and [lead musician](#), at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [communications specialist](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Cohasset; [organist](#) at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury; [sexton](#) at Emmanuel Church in Boston; [development associate](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; [parish administrator](#) at St. Mark's Church in Foxborough; [community youth organizer](#) at St. Paul's Church in Newburyport; and [parish administrator](#) at St. Luke's Church in Hudson.

CLERGY 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:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

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

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Bryan Pearson has been appointed as the priest-in-charge of St. Mark's Church in Burlington starting Nov. 29.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the Jan. 6, 2016, issue is earlier than usual because of the holidays: **Wednesday, Dec. 16 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
