



**Wednesday, April 6, 2016**

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**  
138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)  
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## **Mission strategy initial report now available**

### **Summary timeline:**

#### **January-February:**

*Open forums, focus groups, online & phone surveys*

#### **March:**

*Listening team compiles themes from forums & surveys into initial report*

#### **April:**

*Initial report issued & open response period*

#### **May:**

*Listening team hands off revised report to mission strategy drafting group appointed by Diocesan Council and Bishop Gates*

#### **Summer-Early fall:**

*Draft mission strategy issued & open response period*

#### **September:**

*Diocesan Council receives proposed mission strategy*

#### **November:**

*Mission strategy comes before Diocesan Convention for final approval*

The diocesan mission strategy listening team has issued its initial report and invites the diocesan community's response—in person, online or by phone. The initial report is posted at [www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy](http://www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy).

Four open forums have been scheduled at locations around the diocese, at which the team will present its initial findings and invite further conversation. Online and phone response options will also be available during the two-week response period, April 10-24. The link and toll-free number will be posted at [www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy](http://www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy).

The four open forums will take place on:

- *Sunday, April 10, 2:30-4 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield;
- *Saturday, April 16, 10-11:30 a.m.*, at Trinity Church (parish house entrance at 206 Clarendon Street) in Boston;
- *Sunday, April 17, 3-4:30 p.m.*, at St. Christopher's Church (625 Main Street) in Chatham; and
- *Saturday, April 23, 1-2:30 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour (120 Center Street) in Middleborough.

After the public response period in April, the team will make any necessary revisions to the initial report. It will then hand off its revised report to the team that will actually draft the new mission strategy (see below).

The mission strategy drafting team appointed by Diocesan Council and Bishop Alan M. Gates has been announced.

Serving on the mission strategy drafting team are: **Billy Boyce**, Grace Church, New Bedford; **George Chu**, Church of the Good Shepherd, Dedham; **the Rev. Dr. Kate Cress**, Church of Our Saviour, Somerset; **the Rev. Dr. Lisa Fortuna**, Diocesan Hispanic-Latino Ministries Committee; **Hilary Greene**, St. Mary's Church, Barnstable; **James Houghton**, St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; **the Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas**, Chaplain at MIT; **the Rev. Philip LaBelle**, St. Mark's Church, Southborough; **Lucinda McClain**, St. Stephen's Church, Lynn; **Victoria Perez-Gonzales**, St. Luke's-San Lucas Church, Chelsea; **the Rev. Deborah Phillips**, Grace Church, Salem; **Win Treese**, St. Elizabeth's Church, Sudbury; **Douglas Unkel**, St. Andrew's Church, Ayer; and **Clark Warner**, St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge.

**The Rev. Dr. Meghan Sweeney** of All Saints' Church in Attleboro will continue from the listening team as chairperson of the drafting team, with a co-chairperson to be named. **The Rev. Canon Libby Berman** will continue as the team's diocesan staff liaison.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

The drafting team will be responsible for the third and final phase of the process that is underway to create a new mission strategy for the Diocese of Massachusetts. Its job is to write a draft mission strategy that responds to the revised report that it will receive in May from the listening team. The drafting team's work will also be informed by demographic and other data related to the diocese and the wider Episcopal Church, as well as previous iterations of diocesan mission strategies. In collaboration with the bishops, the team is to develop its draft by early summer, in time to invite feedback from the diocesan community before the proposed mission strategy goes before the Diocesan Council in early fall and then to the Diocesan Convention for final approval in November. *FOR INFORMATION: Listening Process Design Team at [diomasslistening@gmail.com](mailto:diomasslistening@gmail.com); [www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy](http://www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy).*

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**Join Episcopal Church's  
witness at Mother's Day  
Walk for Peace**

Join the Diocese of Massachusetts' B-PEACE team on *Sunday, May 8* for the annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace, this year marking its 20th anniversary. The pledge walk is a fundraiser for the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#), which offers services to families that have lost someone to violence. It also provides peace curricula to students of all ages.

The diocesan B-PEACE for Jorge team's organizers hope this year to have 400 walkers and raise at least \$2,000 for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. This will be the fourth year that Episcopalians have rallied as a team to walk as a witness for peace and show support for all who are affected by violence.

**The walk route is different this year.** The walk will step off at 8 a.m., as usual, from Town Field Park in Dorchester, but instead of looping back to the park, it will end at Boston City Hall Plaza with an 11 a.m. rally and closing ceremony. (Click [here](#) for route details and shorter distance options).

Walkers can get ready by signing up, seeking pledges and spreading the word:

- Register to walk with the diocesan B-PEACE team [here](#) (choose "B-PEACE for Jorge" from the dropdown menu next to the words "Credit this event registration to this team or individual").
  - Pledge to support the B-PEACE team [here](#) (choose "B-PEACE for Jorge" from the dropdown menu next to the words "Credit this donation to this social fundraiser").
  - Find more information about the walk at <http://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/>.
  - E-mail questions about the diocesan B-PEACE participation in the walk to [bpeace@ststephensbos.org](mailto:bpeace@ststephensbos.org).
  - A bulletin insert for use in congregations is available [here](#).
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## Diocesan budget hearings scheduled

The 2017 diocesan budgeting process is underway, and the Budget Committee invites participation and input from the diocesan community.

**Two hearings have been scheduled for representatives from strategic ministries** to present their required request reports: *Tuesday, May 10* and *Wednesday, May 18, both from 7 to 9 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

An **open hearing on all aspects of the diocesan budget** will also be offered, on *Tuesday, June 7, 7-9 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. All are invited and welcome to attend any of the hearings.

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

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## CHURCHWIDE:

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has called for a **season of prayer for regions of the Anglican Communion which are experiencing violence and civil strife**. “In this season of resurrection, I call on everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters in areas where there is much burden and little hope,” he said in a March 29 announcement issued by the Episcopal Church’s Office of Public Affairs. Throughout the Easter season, Episcopalians are asked to lift up in prayer parts of the world where there is unrest and to learn more about what the churches in those regions are doing to be sources of support and hope. Resources will be posted online [here](#) as the season progresses, focusing on Burundi, Central America, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Middle East, Pakistan and South Sudan.

- The General Convention Advisory Group on Church Planting is beginning its work to place church-planting efforts into motion for the Episcopal Church. **Grant applications for church starts and missional initiatives** are available [here](#).

The advisory group was established through Resolution D005 calling for the creation of “a churchwide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters; and establishing new congregations each triennium.” The advisory group is also working to support and develop new Spanish-speaking and bilingual congregations, and has been charged with the distribution of further funding for Missional Enterprise Zones.

The advisory group has announced a **design contest for a new logo** depicting a renewed church planting movement across the church. Submission instructions are available [here](#). The contest deadline is May 1.

- A variety of Episcopal Church **scholarships**, derived from annual income from designated trust funds, are available **for the 2016-2017 academic year**. Applicants must be Episcopalians and have the endorsement of their bishop. The application deadline is *April 30*. More information, including the application, is available [here](#).

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## Upcoming youth ministry events:

- Get ready for the **EPISCOPAROO! Youth Band Festival**: Whether you have a band or not, come celebrate with teen bands from across the diocese—representing a range of styles and traditions—for musical jam sessions and demonstrations, on *Saturday, May 14, 3-7 p.m.*, at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham. Bishop Alan M. Gates will preside over a festival Eucharist. There will also be a group dinner. Register online to attend this celebration of thanksgiving for the many gifts of the young people in our midst, [here](#).

Bands interested in leading a workshop, participating at the Eucharist, or both, should contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (contact information below), as soon as possible.

- The **Diocesan Acolyte Festival** is back!: Sign up and join acolyte teams of all ages on *Saturday, May 21, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of the Advent (30 Brimmer Street) in Boston for workshops, a shared meal and a festival Eucharist. Meet other acolytes and worship leaders from around eastern Massachusetts, grow deeper into the role of acolyte and take in a festive procession featuring crosses, banners, torches, flags and streamers from the many participating parishes. Register online, [here](#).

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

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## NOTES:

- A **refreshed version of the popular diocesan welcome folder**, used by congregations to create newcomer packets and other community outreach, is available at no cost. To order, contact the diocesan Office of Communications (as below) with quantity needed, congregation name and mailing address. With advance notice, folders also may be picked up at the diocesan offices at 138 Tremont Street in Boston or at the Clergy Conference in May. *FOR INFORMATION: Ellen Stuart Kittle, Office of Communications (617-482-4826, ext. 558 or [estuart@diomass.org](mailto:estuart@diomass.org)).*

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting** takes place on *Saturday, April 16* at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston, with registration at 10:30 a.m. and the program beginning at 11 a.m. All parish altar guild members and clergy are invited. *FOR INFORMATION: Diane Grondin, Diocesan Altar Guild (781-335-2198 or [dmgrondin@comcast.net](mailto:dmgrondin@comcast.net)).*

- The **Parish Historians Society Annual Meeting** takes place on *Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Christ Church (Zero Garden Street) in Cambridge. Parish historians, parish administrators and all who are interested are encouraged to attend. This year's meeting will focus on women's roles in church formation and parish life, with a case study on researching archives. *FOR INFORMATION: Lynn Smith, Parish Historians Society (617-482-4826, ext. 888 or [PHS\\_Exec@hotmail.com](mailto:PHS_Exec@hotmail.com)).*
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## TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **What are the strengths and challenges of a “small” church?:**

Groups of clergy and lay leaders are gathering around the diocese to discuss the joys and concerns of churches that are small in numbers and/or have part-time clergy leadership. Anyone who would like to know more is invited to contact Amy Cook at 617-482-4826, ext. 645 or [acook@diomass.org](mailto:acook@diomass.org).

- Two **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Trainings** have been scheduled: [Tuesday, May 24, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.](#), at All Saints’ Church (121 North Main Street) in Attleboro (click on the date to register) and [Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.](#), at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston (registration information will be forthcoming). It is expected that all clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts will attend a Safe Church Training once every three years.

*FOR INFORMATION: Matt Roias, Safe Church Training (617-482-4826, ext. 416 or [mroias@diomass.org](mailto:mroias@diomass.org)).*

- **Contemplative Practice and Wisdom Christianity** is a series of workshops presenting the renewal of contemplative spiritual practices and the recovery of a way of faith rooted in inward and outward transformation. Upcoming Saturday workshops, held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, include: [April 16—Centering Prayer and the Divine Indwelling](#), with Bill Sheehan; [April 23—Sacred Chant and the Beloved Community](#), with Ana Hernandez; and [April 30—The Wisdom Way of Knowing](#), with Cynthia Bourgeault. The series is sponsored by the Leadership Development Initiative, The Crossing, the Cathedral Church of St Paul, the Diocese of Massachusetts and Contemplative Outreach of Boston.

*FOR INFORMATION: Lydia Strand, Leadership Development Initiative ([lydia@lditeam.org](mailto:lydia@lditeam.org)).*

- The New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in conjunction with the Hartford Seminary and the Massachusetts Council of Churches, has announced a new course, the **Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising**, set for [Monday-Thursday, May 2-5](#) at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester, Conn. It is a four-day intensive course with a practical application project, and aims to provide the research, tools and customized training to meet the growing needs of leaders in religious communities and fundraisers for faith-based organizations.

*FOR INFORMATION: [www.nesynod.org/events/ecrf](http://www.nesynod.org/events/ecrf).*

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- The **Antiracism Ministry Team** in the Diocese of Massachusetts offers regular trainings, involving a participatory education model which offers opportunities to share experiences, reflect on current issues and develop tools for change.

The next training will be offered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston: *Friday, May 13, 5-8:30 p.m.*, and *Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*, ending with Eucharist. Refreshments and lunch are provided. There is a fee of \$50 per person, which includes training materials. Participants will receive a certificate of completion.

More information and online registration are available [here](#).  
*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or [kmontagno@diomass.org](mailto:kmontagno@diomass.org)).*

## **GRANTS & LOANS:**

- **Children of clergy** canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for **scholarship grants**. Grants are for undergraduate degree programs for the 2016-2017 academic year. The deadline for submission of applications is *Friday, May 13*. Completed materials (available [here](#)) should be sent to: Diane Pound, Office of the Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Notification of grants will be made by June 24.

*FOR INFORMATION: Diane Pound, Office of the Bishop (617-482-4826, ext. 407 or [dpound@diomass.org](mailto:dpound@diomass.org)).*

- Applications for **2016 Congregational Development Grants** are available at [www.diomass.org/content/congregational-development-grants](http://www.diomass.org/content/congregational-development-grants). They are due on *Monday, May 16*. Applications for **2016 Deanery Grants (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants)** are available at [www.diomass.org/deanery-grants](http://www.diomass.org/deanery-grants). They are due by *Monday, Oct. 17*. Unawarded funds will be used for addendum grants after Oct. 17; congregations interested in addendum funds must note their interest in their initial grant requests.

*FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or [lzook@diomass.org](mailto:lzook@diomass.org)).*

- The **Church Home Society**, an affiliated yet independent organization in the Diocese of Massachusetts, **offers financial grants** to organizations that are within the boundaries of the diocese and that service the needs of youth. The Church Home Society also presents each year the **William V. Tripp III Award** to an Episcopal Church-related parish or organization which is doing exceptional work with young people. This award includes a financial donation.

*FOR INFORMATION/TO APPLY: Roberta Tripp, Church Home Society, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 (617-482-4826, ext. 308 or [rtripp@diomass.org](mailto:rtripp@diomass.org)).*

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***DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
ACTIONS:***

At its Feb. 25 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the diocesan Treasurer's Office.

Heard a mission strategy process update from the listening team chairperson, the Rev. Meghan Sweeney.

During an executive session, decided on a process for nominating members to the mission strategy drafting team and voted to elect members to that team.

Voted to approve the fourth-year budget for the South Coast Mission Hub.

Voted to approve the second-year budget for the North Shore Mission Hub.

At its March 17 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center director, John Koch.

Voted to approve the following mission hub budgets, pending the Budget Committee's approval in April: Merrimack Valley; Metrowest; and Plymouth, Cape and Islands.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia, on the 2017 assessment formula, 2015 budget actuals, the 2017 budget process and other financial matters.

Heard a report from the Closing and Merging Parishes Task Force.

Heard a mission strategy process update.

Voted to confirm the appointments of the following people to the Jubilee Global Mission Committee of Diocesan Council: the Rev. Kate Cress, Natalie Finstad, the Rev. Maggie Geller, Douglas Huber, Mary Beth Mills-Curran and the Rev. Noble Scheepers.

Heard a mid-year report from El Hogar, a recipient of a Mission Tithe Council Grant.

Discussed the best way to review information received from the mission hubs and voted to create an ad hoc committee made up of members of Diocesan Council who will work with the Mission Hub Implementation Committee to efficiently evaluate hub ministries and create a process for reviewing and presenting information.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** *Thursday, April 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m., 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](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org)).*

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**JOB POSTINGS:**

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [community development manager](#) for the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub; [math/science teaching fellow](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; two positions, [outreach coordinator](#) and [assistant director of children's ministries](#), at Trinity Church in Boston; [vice president of institutional advancement](#) at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge; [parish administrator](#) at St. Paul's Church in Lynnfield; [organist and choir director](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Edgartown; [youth minister](#) at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; and [minister of music](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading.

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**CLERGY SEARCH &  
CALL REPORT:**

Go to [www.diomass.org](http://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:**

None at this time.

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:**

None at this time.

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

DOVER, St. Dunstan's Church

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Jennifer Beal has been appointed bridge priest at St. Dunstan's Church in Dover, starting in April.

The Rev. Paul Bresnahan has been appointed bridge priest at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading, starting May 1.

The Rev. Lauren McLeavey from the Diocese of Long Island has been called as rector of St. Anne's Church in North Billerica, starting July 1.

The Rev. Tara Soughers has been appointed bridge priest at Epiphany Church in Walpole starting in May.

The Rev. Andrea Suess Taylor from the Diocese of Southwest Florida has been called as rector of St. David's Church in South Yarmouth, starting Aug. 15.

The Rev. Jay Weldon from the Diocese of Georgia has been called as rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waban, starting June 1.

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**NEXT fyi:**

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the May 4 issue is **Wednesday, April 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

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