



Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016

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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**Congregations offering
election prayer vigils
across the diocese**

Dozens of Diocese of Massachusetts congregations are participating in the 48-hour election prayer vigil called for by the bishops of both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses, from *noon on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6 through noon on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8.*

Visit www.diomass.org/election-vigil to find the growing list of participating congregations as well as prayer resources.

All congregations are urged to participate in a way that best suits their local traditions and schedules. Individuals are also encouraged to join their prayers with those of others during the vigil period. People can visit the [Facebook event page](#) to share in prayer and discussion from wherever they may be.

Use and watch for the social media hashtag **#DioMassPrays**.

**Diocesan Convention to
consider proposed new
mission strategy**

This year's Diocesan Convention is being called to embrace brave change as it considers a proposed new mission strategy for the Episcopal Church in eastern Massachusetts. Clergy and delegates representing the congregations of the diocese will gather for the annual event *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5* at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield. In addition to its mission strategy deliberations, the convention will consider resolutions on civil discourse, peacemaking and affordable housing, vote on a proposed \$9.2-million budget for 2017 and elect deputies to the Episcopal Church's 2018 General Convention.

Read a preview [here](#) and find more information on the [Diocesan Convention 2016 page](#). A live Webcast of the proceedings will be available via www.diomass.org, [here](#).

**Grace Chapel celebrates
six years in Brockton**

Grace Chapel in Brockton will celebrate its sixth anniversary as a ministry in the Diocese of Massachusetts on *Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.* at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (900 Main Street) in Brockton. Bishop Alan M. Gates will be the celebrant.

Grace Chapel began with a small group of people in 2010 before the closing of St. Paul's Church in Brockton. The ministry obtained space at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, where it has its offices and holds its weekly Sunday services. A close relationship has developed with the Lutherans through joint services and projects that benefit both communities. Along with the weekly Sunday services, Grace Chapel has an active youth program, including a Boys' and Girls' Brigade that will be officially inaugurated at the anniversary service, and a women's project, The Abigail Project,

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[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

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sponsored by Episcopal City Mission and open to women in the community alongside women of Grace Chapel.

“It has been a wonderful journey and we continue to grow in faith and to trust in God’s never-ending grace. We are grateful for all resources and to all who have journeyed with us this far,” the Rev. Dr. Moses Sowale, Grace Chapel’s missionary, said in extending an invitation to the diocesan community to join in celebrating the Brockton ministry’s anniversary milestone.

FOR INFORMATION: Grace Chapel, Brockton (508-649-3161 or admin@gracechapelbrockton.org); www.gracechapelbrockton.org.

Upcoming youth ministry events:

- It’s time to register for the **2016 Middle School Retreat**, *Friday-Sunday, Nov. 18-20*, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Led by the Diocesan Youth Council, the weekend features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, music by the band Ashes Remain and some much-needed time away from the rush of everyday routines in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God in our lives. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Registration closes when capacity is reached, or on Nov. 13. Register online [here](#).
- Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the people of St. Luke’s-San Lucas Church in Chelsea on *Saturday, Dec. 17, 6:30-9 p.m.*, for **Las Posadas**, a traditional Advent event in which those gathered will trace Mary and Joseph’s traveling search for shelter. As the group celebrates this well-known story from the Christian tradition, it will hold close in heart and mind the serious plight of modern-day refugees struggling to find shelter today. This is a bilingual and multicultural celebration with processions, music, food and hospitality. There is a registration fee of \$5 per participant (register [here](#)), but if cost is a barrier, contact the Office of Youth Ministry. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215, or hmsmith@diomass.org).*

NOTES:

- **“We Are the Earth: Public Prayer for the Planet”**: Join for an outdoor festive worship service to celebrate God’s creation, with Bishop Alan M. Gates, Bishop Douglas J. Fisher and other faith leaders on *Sunday, Nov. 13 at 3 p.m.* at the Heifer Farm (216 Wachusett Street) in Rutland. The service is free, family friendly and open to the public. Prior to the service, at 2:15 p.m., there will be an optional free guided tour of the Heifer Farm. After the service, enjoy hot beverages and homemade snacks. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas (413-625-2888 or mbj@revivingcreation.org).*
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- The diocesan Global Mission Office would like congregations to know that staff members continue to be available to assist with **developing and furthering ministry with refugees and asylum seekers**. Resources are available for presenting a workshop to the congregation, connections with local agencies and an ever-growing list of parishes in this diocese which have been engaging in partnerships with refugees. In addition, both Laura Walta and the Rev. Holly Hartman are available to come and speak with congregations about this increasingly relevant ministry, and they welcome inquiries.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org) or The Rev. Holly Hartman (617-482-4826, ext. 351 or hhartman@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- Congregations, groups and individuals can **take part via Webcast in the upcoming churchwide “Evangelism Matters” conference**, to be held *Nov. 18-19* in Dallas. The conference is designed for anyone who would like to learn more about evangelism and available resources. The live, free Webcast will be accessible [here](#). A live Facebook feed in Spanish will be available [here](#). On-demand viewing will be available following the event [here](#).

- In an effort to be more environmentally conscious and to decrease costs, **the Episcopal Church’s Office of Congregational Research will not be mailing hard copies of the 2016 Parochial Report forms to congregations in December** as it has in the past. Instead, it will send out a mailing that includes each congregation’s online log-in information for accessing the form on the filing site, along with a cover letter from the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe explaining the shift toward electronic filing.

For those parishes that are not able to file online or that need to submit a handwritten, typed or printed hard copy, the Parochial Report form, as well as instructions and workbooks for each page, will remain available online for congregations to access and download via <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/parochial-report>.

Among the recent improvements made to the site are availability in French and Spanish; removal of the frustration-causing time-out feature that kicked users out of the system after 15 minutes of inactivity; and implementation of a “roll-over” feature for the “Clergy Serving This Congregation” section so that users will be able to click a button to copy all or part of their previous year’s clergy information instead of re-entering all relevant clergy data for the new filing year.

FOR INFORMATION: Christine Kandic, Episcopal Church Office of Congregational Research (212-716-6187 or ckandic@episcopalchurch.org).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- The **Leadership Development Initiative** (LDI) is hosting a workshop on *Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, to explore the vocation of the church and the ways contemplative and organizing tools can enable us to fulfill our call to seek reconciliation and justice. The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$25 per person for food and materials. Register for the event [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Natalie Finstad, Leadership Development Initiative (natalie@LDITeam.org).
 - There will be a **Living Compass program training**, *Thursday-Friday, Nov. 17-18* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, with Scott and Holly Stoner training participants as certified wellness advocates. Living Compass is an Episcopal-based wellness program for churches that can be used both for formation and discipleship of church members as well as outreach to the community. Learn more about the program at www.livingcompass.org. Register online for the training [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).
 - Upcoming **Safe Church Training** events, open to all, are scheduled on [Saturday, Nov. 19](#) at St. John's Church in Sandwich and [Saturday, Dec. 10](#) at St. Anne's Church in North Billerica, *both from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.* Click on the dates to register.
This training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power, to outline steps toward preventing abuse, to offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs and to equip anyone in a position of parish leadership with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ.
The training is required of all clergy, diocesan employees and congregational employees. It is also highly recommended for wardens, vestry members, lay eucharistic visitors, pastoral visitors, youth leaders, Confirmation sponsors, acolyte leaders, choir directors, church school teachers and volunteers working in a congregation on a regular basis.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).
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**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ACTIONS:**

At its Oct. 27 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Elected six members to the Phase IV Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team. The entire team will be announced once the bishops have appointed the remaining six members.

Voted to approve a budget recategorization submitted by the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub.

Voted to approve the Roxbury-Dorchester Mission Hub's second year budget for up to \$141,196.

Heard an update about the South Shore Mission Hub.

Voted to approve the following roster for the Mission Hub Implementation Committee: Joyce Harrington, The Rev. Thea Keith Lucas, Isaac Martinez, Stephen Mascoll, The Rev. H. Mark Smith, The Rev. Stephen Voysey, The Rev. Sammy Wood and John Woodard, with five ex-officio members: The Rev. Canon Libby Berman, Cindy Cushman, Diane D'Souza, Jin Min Lee and Steve Matthews. John Woodard was appointed the interim chair of the committee.

Heard a mission strategy report, including plans for Diocesan Convention.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia.

Voted to approve a proposed debt repayment plan for Grace Church in North Attleboro.

Voted to direct the secretary of the diocese to not omit the names of the lay delegates to Diocesan Convention for St. Mary's Church in Rockport for this year; its assessment arrearages would have made it eligible to lose its lay delegates' vote at convention.

Formed a subcommittee to plan the Jan. 20-21, 2017, Diocesan Council retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center.

Thanked outgoing members of Diocesan Council whose terms expire as of Diocesan Convention 2016.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 15, 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:
[assistant summer camp director](#) at the Barbara C. Harris Camp
and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.; [director of children's
and youth ministries](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham;
[music director](#) at St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain;
[communications assistant](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [office
manager](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn; [chaplain](#) at Sherrill
House; [administrative assistant](#) for the Plymouth, Cape and Islands
Mission Hub; and [minister of music](#) at the Church of the Good
Shepherd in Reading.

**CLERGY SEARCH &
CALL REPORT:**

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:

CONCORD, Trinity Church
FRANKLIN, St. John's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CLERGY CHANGES:

Effective immediately, the Rev. Dr. Karen Coleman has been
appointed acting Episcopal chaplain at Boston University. She
succeeds the Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge, who has accepted a
call to become the rector of St. Aidan's Church in San Francisco
beginning this month.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The
submission deadline for the Dec. 7 issue is **Wednesday, Nov. 30
at noon.**

Please note: Because of the holidays, the submission deadline
for the January 2017 issue is earlier than usual: **Wednesday,
Dec. 14 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.