



Wednesday, June 7, 2017

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

New formula for 2018 assessments in place

The Assessment Coordinating Committee is receiving adjustment requests until July 7 via the [Convention Office](#).

The diocesan Treasurer's Office distributed 2018 assessment calculations to congregations on June 1 using the new assessment formula adopted by Diocesan Council in April. The new formula is a response to requests from congregations for assessment relief, voiced during the mission strategy listening process, and its goal is to achieve a 10 percent decrease in total assessment income to the 2018 diocesan budget.

The previous formula, in use since 2010, calculated a parish's assessment at 15.5 percent of expenses reported three years prior (the most recent parochial report data available at the time the calculations must be made), minus a \$6,000 deduction.

The new formula for 2018 is progressive. It applies three increasing percentages to expenses: 0.15 percent to the first \$0-\$50,000 of expenses; 14.5 percent to the next \$50,001 to \$500,000; and 15.5 percent to any additional expenses above \$500,000. Mission congregations are assessed at two-thirds the amount that would be assessed if they were parishes.

More information is available [here](#).

An Assessment Coordinating Committee (a committee of Diocesan Council) is in place to receive inquiries from congregations whose circumstances may warrant some adjustment to the 2018 assessment. All such requests should be sent to the committee through Laura Simons in the Office of Convention and Council (lsimons@diomass.org) by Friday, July 7.

FOR INFORMATION: Gerry Sullivan, Treasurer's Office (617-482-4826, ext. 554 or gsullivan@diomass.org).

Diocesan Convention preparation is underway

Clergy and delegates: New e-mail address? Let the [Convention Office](#) know by June 28 so that your materials will reach you.

This year's Diocesan Convention will take place on *Saturday, Nov. 4* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. All resolutions, nominations for diocesan elections, proposed constitutional and canonical amendments and committee reports are due in the Office of Convention and Council by *Friday, Sept. 8*.

Preliminary Diocesan Convention information will be e-mailed on June 30 to all clergy, delegates and lay leadership 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 their updated contact information by *Wednesday, June 28* to lsimons@diomass.org.

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

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

**How will we embrace
brave change?: Join the
conversation**

The Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team continues its work with the bishops, Diocesan Council, Budget Committee and others to evaluate and align financial, staff and other resources with the specific goals and actions outlined in the mission strategy and to develop a sequenced plan for their implementation.

While that work is ongoing, the team encourages individuals, congregations and ministry groups to help one another become more familiar with the new mission strategy and find their own connections to it. In support of these conversations, a video teaching from Bishop Gates, a discussion guide and a series of three bulletin inserts are available at www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy. Copies of the materials, along with posters, have been mailed to all congregations.

FOR INFORMATION: Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team co-chairs Win Treese (treese@acm.org) or The Rev. Nancy Gossling (617-482-4826, ext. 204 or ngossling@diomass.org).

NOTES:

- Information from the diocesan chancellor's office for those congregations considering the provision of **sanctuary assistance to undocumented immigrants** is now available [here](#). The May 15 letter compiles resource information and clarification on several general principles that may inform a congregation's discernment process. Additional resource materials and audio of presentations from the March 26 "Immigration and the Church 101" event convened by the bishops are available [here](#).

- Join Bishop Alan M. Gates and Episcopalians from around the diocese who will be walking together in the annual **Boston Pride Parade** on *Saturday, June 10*. The Crossing, the Thursday evening worship community at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, is again organizing this Episcopal Church participation. A member of The Crossing's Pride planning team will be at the steps of Trinity Church in Copley Square at 11 a.m. to meet and escort those who would like to walk together to the group's designated line-up location (which won't be known until just before the parade). At the end of the parade the group will gather for Eucharist at Old West Church (131 Cambridge Street) in Boston. All are welcome. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Marsha Hoecker (mhhoecker@gmail.com) or Ashley Anderson (ashley.thecrossing@gmail.com) or visit The Crossing's [Facebook event page](#).*

- **Small churches gathering:** Clergy and lay leaders from small churches—often those with less than full-time clergy leadership—are invited to gather and talk about their joys, gifts and challenges and to explore ways of focusing on mission and ministry rather than merely survival. The gathering will take place on *Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.*, at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy. *TO RSVP/FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Congregational Development (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or jgarrett@diomass.org).*

- Sign up by *Thursday, June 15* to join the **mission pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine**, to be led by Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Debbie Phillips of Grace Church in Salem. The Nov. 24-Dec. 6 mission pilgrimage will combine visits to holy sites with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, health-care and peacemaking ministries.

The group will meet three times before the trip for orientation and community building.

Estimated cost is \$4,100 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by Oct. 1.

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

- The 40-day **“River of Life” Connecticut River pilgrimage** sponsored by the Episcopal dioceses of New England got underway on May 31, with “river pilgrims” paddling along for a day or more along the way, taking part in shore activities or supporting the effort through prayer from wherever they may be. The “River of Life” prayer book is available [here](#).

Bishop Alan M. Gates plans to join the pilgrimage from Springfield to Hartford, July 3-5.

Find the schedule, map and more information [here](#).

CHURCHWIDE:

- **World Refugee Day** is June 20. Find event planning and welcoming resources [here](#), and stay up to date with the Episcopal Public Policy Network’s advocacy on behalf of refugees [here](#).
- Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America issued a joint statement on May 18 calling for **prayer, advocacy and fasting for hunger awareness** on the 21st of each month through December 2018, at which time the 115th Congress will conclude. The effort targets the 21st day because by that time each month, 90 percent of SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) benefits have been used, causing families to experience the last week of the month as a hungry week. Read more [here](#).
- In May the Episcopal Church released **“Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice,”** inviting Episcopalians to study and use the plan. The full document is available [here](#).

“Becoming Beloved Community” responds to the 2015 General Convention’s [Resolution C019](#) on establishing a response to systemic injustice, and it seeks to link new initiatives with existing ones and to support and amplify local, regional, provincial and churchwide network efforts. Find more information [here](#).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617/482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- The **Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) 2017-2018 launch** is *Sunday-Friday, July 23-July 28* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Designed for young leaders entering ninth or 10th grade this fall, this special week at the camp provides a 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 YLA and invited to continue (but signing up for the YLA week at camp is not committing to the yearlong program). Register at www.bchcenter.org/camp.

Young people unable to attend the YLA week at camp can still apply to join the yearlong program in the fall. For more information on the Youth Leadership Academy, visit www.diomassyouth.org or contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministries (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- **Applications for the 2017-2018 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) are now available.** Find all instructions for completing applications [here](#). All applications are due *Wednesday, Aug. 16*. Members of the Diocesan Youth Council are students in the 10th-12th grades who act as the official youth presence at Diocesan Convention. They also work throughout the year to plan and run diocesan youth events and strive to make the church a nurturing Christian community that encourages the spiritual growth of young people.

- The Office of Youth Ministry has posted its **calendar of offerings for the coming year**, available [here](#). It includes perennial favorites such as middle school, high school and pre-Confirmation retreats, as well as newer traditions like the Las Posadas Advent event and the Good Friday overnight. Congregation leaders are encouraged to share the year-at-a-glance calendar (which will be available at www.diomassyouth.org on July 5) with others in the congregation as they plan their own youth programs for the coming year.

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- Save the date for **Diocesan Stewardship Leaders Training: Saturday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.**, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Join with stewardship leaders from across the diocese to hear what's working in other congregations and spend the morning learning about the fundamentals of jump-starting the annual pledge campaign. More details and registration information will follow soon.
FOR INFORMATION: Lynd Matt, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or lmatt@diomass.org).
-

- **“Global Missions: Perspectives for Success,”** a workshop on global mission partnerships, will be offered on *Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*, at Christ Church (1132 Highland Avenue) in Needham. This is a workshop for congregations that have or are interested in having a mission partnership with a church or group outside of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Hear the stories and learn from the experiences of Episcopalians involved in global mission, including Alan Yarborough, Communications Coordinator and Office Manager for the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, and Natalie Finstad, Interim Director of the Leadership Development Initiative.

Lunch will be served; a \$5 fee is requested to cover costs. RSVP to Haiti Network organizer Leo Ryan at leo.j.ryan@gmail.com or the Rev. Holly Hartman, Deacon for Global Mission Partnerships, at hartman@diomass.org.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2017 deanery (Sending Serving and House of Mercy) grants** are available [here](#). They are due by Monday, Oct. 16.

FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

- The deadline to apply for **clergy sabbatical grants for 2018** is *Monday, Oct. 16, 2017*. Application information is available [here](#). Completed applications should be sent to: Office of the Bishop Suffragan, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Notifications of grant awards will be sent out on Nov. 16, 2017.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Michael Hodges (978-475-0529 or mhodges@christchurchandover.org) or The Rev. Kate Ekrem (781-862-6408 or kate@our-redeemer.net).

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [director of children and youth ministries](#) at St. Paul's Church in Brookline; [director of Christian education for children and youth](#) at St. Michael's Church in Marblehead; [director of youth ministry](#) at St. Paul's Church in Lynnfield; [bookkeeper](#) at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Boston; [children's minister](#) at Grace Church in New Bedford; [choir director](#) at St. Dunstan's Church in Dover; [director of children, youth and family ministries](#) at All Saints Parish in Brookline; [development and operations manager](#) for Life Together; [music administrator](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; [organist](#) at Emmanuel Chapel in Manchester-by-the-Sea; [sexton](#) at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [music director](#) for The Crossing at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; and [Christian education director for children and youth](#) at St. James's Church in Amesbury.

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ACTIONS:**

At its April 27 meeting the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from the mission hub program director, Jin Min Lee, on several of the mission hubs and voted to approve the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub's proposed 18-month budget (valid January 2017 through June 2018) for maximum spending of \$236,168.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team co-chairs, the Rev. Nancy Gossling and Win Treese.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia, on proposed 2018 assessment formulas, and voted a new assessment formula for 2018 as follows:

Where BASE for 2018 is equal to line 14 ("all other operating expenses") from the 2015 parochial report, less line 7 ("assistance from diocese"), the following rates shall be applied:

- 0.15% on expenses from \$0 to \$50,000*
- 14.5% on expenses from \$50,001 to \$500,000*
- 15.5% on expenses over \$500,000*

For a mission, the 2018 assessment is two-thirds the amount that would be assessed if the congregation were a parish.

At its May 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard from the South Shore Mission Hub Ad Hoc Review Committee that the South Shore Mission Hub has decided to cease its work as a hub.

Heard an update from the Rev. Canon Libby Berman on behalf of the Task Force for Parish Closings and Mergers.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team co-chairs, the Rev. Nancy Gossling and Win Treese.

Reviewed a draft of the proposed 2018 diocesan budget.

Voted to authorize the Assessment Coordinating Committee to consider and receive requests from congregations for adjustments to the 2018 scheduled assessments, with total adjustments not to exceed \$67,500.

Voted to appoint Rob Kelleher, Connie Melahoures, the Rev. Tom Mousin and Lynn Smith to the Assessment Coordinating Committee.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, June 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).

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

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:

BOSTON, Trinity Church
 CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church
 COHASSET, St. Stephen's Church
 MEDFORD, Grace Church
 WALTHAM, Christ Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

DUXBURY, Church of St. John the Evangelist
 FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
 VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

FRANKLIN, St. John's Church
 HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

CONCORD, Trinity Church

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church: Curate/Assistant/Associate Rector

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Rebecca Black has been appointed interim priest at Christ Church in Waltham starting on June 26.
 The Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III will retire from Trinity Church in Boston on June 18. The Rev. Dr. William W. Rich will serve as the interim rector starting on June 18.
 The Rev. Bryan Pearson has been appointed priest associate at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston and continues as the priest-in-charge at St. Mark's Church in Burlington.
 The Rev. Rachael Pettengill-Rasure has been called as rector of the Church of Our Saviour in Milton where she has been serving as the priest-in-charge.
 The Rev. Mary Scott Wagner, who has been serving as the bridge priest at St. John's Church in Saugus, has been called as associate rector for children, youth and families at Christ Church in Needham.

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the July 5 issue is **Wednesday, June 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
