

2023 Bishops' Annual Appeal

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



“Behold I make all things new” (Revelation 21:5)

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is being made new in our midst? Where are we being called to minister in new ways as a result of our shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation? How are we coming alive in bold witness to God’s love for this broken and beautiful world?

In this season of our common life as the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, we have set an ambitious goal of raising \$300,000 through the 2023 Bishops’ Annual Appeal. These funds will provide financial support for our diverse shared ministries and initiatives ranging from lifelong Christian formation, to youth and young adult ministries, to racial justice and creation-care initiatives, to multicultural and immigration outreach. Together, in all of these areas and more, we are able to accomplish that which we cannot do alone.

Every gift to the Bishops’ Annual Appeal matters! Will you help us reach our goal? Each year our diocese conducts a campaign to fund grants for mission initiatives, support for congregations and grants for wider church ministry. This year we are seeking to create greater awareness of this renamed “Bishops’ Annual Appeal” and its impact on important ministries throughout our diocese and beyond. The Bishops’ Annual Appeal will be conducted once a year during Lent. Our goal is to work collaboratively with all our congregations and worshiping communities to invite greater participation.

Your generous, joyful giving to the Bishops’ Annual Appeal is essential to the success of vital, strategic ministries through which Episcopalians in eastern Massachusetts are innovating with God. We ask you to please join us in supporting this work.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

The Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher



With your support, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts annually commits \$2.2 million in grants, allocations, and program support to mission initiatives, congregations and special ministries, as well as support for the wider church. We are more than 175 congregations in eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the Islands. We seek to be Christ’s presence in the world as we answer God’s urgent call together.

Making all things new.



Story Starters, St. Mary's Church, Newton Lower Falls

Addressing the sins of racism and oppression in our midst

Story Starters supports families in discussing race and racism and empowers parents to effectively communicate their antiracist values to their young children. Story Starters targets the critical developmental window (ages 3-8) when parents are poised to have a significant impact on their children's beliefs about race. Over the course of their eight-week program, families learn research-based methods and are provided with strategies and prompts to use these methods to guide conversations in their homes. Story Starters will receive a \$5,000 grant for 2023.



The Bridge, St. Peter's Church, Dartmouth

Outreach to marginalized and immigrant communities

There continues to be a shortage of mental health services across the South Coast of Massachusetts. The mental health needs of children, teens, and adults have drastically increased in these communities and throughout the nation due to the pandemic. The Bridge has responded by filling this void and caring for God's people in the community and by working in collaboration with Southcoast Hospital Group and Hawthorne Medical as well as many other community organizations. To help with the overload of the requests for services for children and teens, The Bridge collaborates with the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program at UMass Dartmouth and the Dartmouth Public Schools to host psycho-social programs for the children and families in the local school system. A \$40,000 grant for 2023 is for continuing support of this important program.



ProGente Connections, Framingham

Ecumenical outreach to the Brazilian community

A grant of \$20,000 for 2023 helps continue ProGente's support for marginalized and immigrant communities, specifically, work among the Brazilian community in Framingham. ProGente Connections is housed at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham, and is supported by Episcopal, Lutheran, and Brazilian Presbyterian churches. ProGente provides Portuguese and English language classes and engages in immigrant advocacy and support. ProGente has responded to this community's needs by creating classes and workshops to meet other specific needs, such as an upcoming course to prepare for the citizenship exam.



Staff Highlight:

The Rev. Yolanda Rolle

Missioner for Youth and Young Adults

Revitalizing youth ministry in a post-pandemic church

Hello friends! I am now celebrating six months working with our youth and young adult ministries. My approach to this work is to first reflect on how our young people are worshiping, studying, serving and celebrating in community.



Youth Ministry (under 18)

Youth ministries continue to thrive in our diocese. Upcoming events include "Meditations of the Heart" with Presiding Bishop Curry in April, and the Episcopal Youth Event in July at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Young Adult Ministries (18-39)

Young adult ministries are led by our university campus ministries, Life Together service corps program, and the Young Adult Advisory Committee. These ministries continue to thrive under the leadership of dedicated chaplains, chaplain assistants and lay leaders across the diocese.

MANNA, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston

Serving the homeless (unhoused) community in downtown Boston

A \$20,000 grant for 2023 supports the work of the MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always) ministry with the homeless community in downtown Boston. MANNA seeks not only to welcome people across differences of class, wealth, culture, race, and mental ability, but also to empower all people to claim their place as essential members of the community.



Grace Church, Lawrence

Supporting our parishes in gateway communities

A \$60,000 grant for 2023 supports this English and Spanish-speaking congregation in Lawrence which has suffered a loss of main rental income that will impact its 2023 budget. Mission Initiatives funding is important for bridging this gap. This support is key, as the congregation hosts community events, sponsors activities for youth, and feeds the hungry.





Kaleidoscope Center for the Arts, St. John's Church, Lowell

Protecting the beauty and integrity of all God's creation

Kaleidoscope is an after-school arts program for children, where caring and talented adults work to inspire children, to express themselves and intercommunicate with others, from all backgrounds, in the common language of love. The Kaleidoscope program endeavors to instill in every child a sense of beauty of the great works of art that illuminate the magnificence of creation and presents art as a representation of God's creation within this physical world; an interpretation of reality based on an individual's perception; a human expression made to define the Divine in order to unlock and reveal God's work in all creation; to cherish God's wondrous works and protect their beauty. Kaleidoscope received a grant of \$15,000 for 2023.

Christ the King Anglican Community Church, Lynn

Supporting the wider Anglican Communion

Christ the King was received as a mission congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts at the Diocesan Convention in 2021. The congregation comprises mainly immigrants from East Africa, specifically Kenya, the majority of which are young parents with one or two children and most of them are students



attending local colleges. The congregation is currently supporting two clergy, one of whom is a youth pastor. The congregation's mission is to reach families that reside in the city of Lynn and beyond to make Christ the King a home for many Anglicans who live in the area, especially those immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. Christ the King received a grant of \$15,000 for 2023.

**To give by credit card, use the QR code or go to www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal.
Checks payable to "Bishops' Annual Appeal" and sent to the address below.**

Contact the Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant, with any questions or to make a gift of securities.

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