



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts  
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### **Biography: The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates**

Alan McIntosh Gates was born in Springfield, Mass., on March 25, 1958, the son of J. Edward Gates, a lexicographer, and Marion McIntosh (Thompson) Gates, a psychiatric nurse. He was baptized on July 13, 1958, at the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Mass., by his grandfather, the Rev. Dr. John A. Gates.

He is a graduate of Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt. His studies included a semester in Moscow, USSR, in the late Soviet era. Prior to seminary he was a Russian language translator, researcher and intelligence analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense, from 1980 to 1984, including a tour of duty at the State Department from 1982 to 1983. Concurrently he undertook graduate studies in linguistics at Georgetown University.

Bishop Gates holds a Master of Divinity degree from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and served while a seminarian at St. Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn, Mass. He was ordained to the diaconate on June 13, 1987, at Washington National Cathedral, and to the priesthood on March 26, 1988, in the Diocese of Massachusetts. He served as curate at the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, Mass., from 1987 to 1990, and as rector of Trinity Church in Ware, Mass., in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, from 1990 to 1996. While in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, he was a member of the Commission on Ministry and the Adult Education Commission and served as dean of the Franklin-Hampshire Deanery (1993-1996).

He was then called to the Diocese of Chicago, where he served as senior associate rector (1996-2003) and priest-in-charge (2003-2004) at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, Ill. He was clergy caucus co-convenor for Lake County United on interfaith action (2002-2004) and served on the board of St. Leonard's House, an Episcopal ministry for ex-offenders (1999-2003).

In 2004 he was called to the Diocese of Ohio, where he served as rector of St. Paul's Church in Cleveland Heights until his election as bishop in 2014.

While in the Diocese of Ohio, Bishop Gates was a founding strategy team member for Greater Cleveland Congregations on interfaith action, and was a member and chair of the diocese's Commission on Ministry and a member of the Standing Committee. He also served on numerous ministry discernment committees. He was a member of the preaching conference faculty in 2008 for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, and served on the board of the Teleios Foundation for U.S.-Russian church relations (1996-2005).

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Bishop Gates was elected bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts at a special Diocesan Convention held on April 5, 2014, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. He was ordained and consecrated a bishop on Sept. 13, 2014, and on that day succeeded Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE to become the 16th bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Bishop Gates is a past trustee of Bexley Hall Seabury-Western Seminary Federation (2010-2016), and is currently on the board of the Anglican Theological Review. He previously served on the Episcopal Church General Convention's Committee on Social Justice and United States Policy and the Committee on Safeguarding and Title IV. Currently he serves on the Standing Commission on World Mission. Bishop Gates is a member of Bishops United Against Gun Violence. He is episcopal visitor for the religious communities of the Society of St. Margaret and the Order of St. Anne.

Bishop Gates and his spouse, Patricia J. Harvey, reside in Boston and have two adult sons.

Find Bishop Gates's blog at <https://bishopalangates.net> and follow him on Instagram: [@massbishopxvi](#).

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*(Updated: January 2020)*