



Wednesday, March 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

(617) 482-4826 / (617) 482-5800 / FAX: (617) 451-6446

Mission strategy listening team to make initial report in April

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

Good participation, in both numbers and spirit, has the diocese's mission strategy listening process on a successful track so far, according to members of the design team that hosted open forums around the diocese in January and February. More than 550 people representing 100-plus congregations attended the first six open forums, and, as of the week before surveys closed, more than 300 online responses had been received.

The team will now compile and code transcripts and survey responses, identify common themes and make an initial report for the diocesan community's review in April. Several open meetings will be scheduled in April to give everyone an opportunity to respond to the initial report; there will also be an online response option. Details will be announced as soon as they become available.

After the public response period in April, the team will make any necessary revisions to the initial report, and then will hand the revised report off to the working group that will actually draft the new mission strategy. That group, soon to be named, will comprise approximately 14 people, half appointed by the Diocesan Council and half appointed by Bishop Alan M. Gates, to help ensure well-rounded representation of the diocese as a whole.

Read more [here](#) about the process.

The listening process design team offers its gratitude to everyone who has taken part to date, and asks for the diocesan community's continued prayers and participation as the process moves forward.

FOR INFORMATION: Listening Process Design Team at diomasslistening@gmail.com; www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

Gather for "Our Global Mission Journey" on April 9

On *Saturday, April 9*, "Our Global Mission Journey" will gather members of the diocesan community for a learning and networking summit. The day-long event will be hosted by St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Titus Presler, author of *Going Global with God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference*. The day's program will include workshops, music, worship and networking opportunities, and will focus on global mission topics including evolution of mission, engaging young people, involving the congregation, maintaining mission relationships, the "friends and money" aspect of mission relationships and learning from challenges. All with an interest in global mission are welcome.

Find more information and register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).

***ELCA bishop to preach
at cathedral on Holy
Tuesday***

This year's Holy Tuesday service with blessing of holy oils will include renewal of vows for clergy of the Diocese of Massachusetts and the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop James Hazelwood of the New England Synod will preach. The service takes place on *Tuesday, March 22, 11 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. A luncheon will follow (\$10 per person, open to all). RSVP for lunch by phone to 617-482-4826, ext. 221 or by e-mail to cathedral@diomass.org. For the full Holy Week schedule, visit www.stpaulboston.org.

***"Eighth Deadly Sin: Racism"
Preaching Series continues***

The cathedral church's "Eighth Deadly Sin: Racism" Lenten Preaching Series continues on *Thursdays at 12 p.m.* Upcoming preachers include Olivia Hamilton (*March 3*), Byron Rushing (*March 10*) and Bishop Gayle E. Harris (*March 17*). Conversation over a brown-bag lunch follows each service. All are welcome. *FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or cathedral@diomass.org).*

CHURCHWIDE:

- "Our journey as Episcopalians also includes remembering our sister and brother Christians in the Holy Land who maintain the faith which we hold so dear," Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry said in the annual letter to all congregations asking them to consider assistance for Jerusalem and the Middle East through the **Good Friday Offering**.

"This tradition is decades old and is an important statement of our solidarity with the members of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. We have a Gospel imperative to be sure they know they are not forgotten behind the headlines or because of the distractions in our own lives," Curry said.

The full text of the presiding bishop's Good Friday Offering letter is [here](#). Information and resources for the Good Friday Offering are available [here](#).

- The **Anglican Consultative Council** (ACC) will meet in Lusaka, Zambia, for its 16th triennial meeting, April 8-20. In a Feb. 25 Anglican Communion News Service release, the secretary general of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, asks "all our members in every province, as well as our ecumenical partners" to join in prayer "as we prepare for the meeting of this instrument of our Communion." Find the release and other information [here](#).

The ACC's role, in part, is to facilitate the cooperative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, and it advises on the communion's organization and structures.

There is heightened interest in the upcoming April meeting, given the January call from the Anglican Communion's primates for a temporary restriction of the Episcopal Church's participation in certain representative and decision-making bodies.

Upcoming youth ministry events:

- Advance registration is required to attend one of the upcoming Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** in March and April. Members of the Diocesan Youth Council will host these events to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 11-12* at St. Christopher's Church (625 Main Street) in Chatham; and *March 18-19* and *April 8-9*, both at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Confirmands and their mentors will gather to meet other young people and explore their call to Confirmation, its promise and challenge. The groups will be joined by one of the bishops at each retreat. Registration closes one week prior to each event. Register online, [here](#).

- "Gather at the Foot of the Cross": Young people from across the diocese are invited to gather *Friday-Saturday, March 25-26* at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston for a **Good Friday Overnight** event that will begin with a shared dinner and end after a simple breakfast the next day. In between, the group will work with New York City-based performance artist Tony LoPresti to explore the meaning and power of the Passion narrative using the physical self, personal experiences and imagination. For middle and high school students and their mentors, the lock-in-style overnight will include Friday night worship in the darkened sanctuary and a Saturday morning reflection on the impact of the story on our lives and world today. The cost is \$15 per person; scholarship assistance is available. Registration is required and can be done online, [here](#).

- 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).

NOTES:

- The **2016 Diocesan Convention** will be a two-day convention, *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5* at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield. *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).*

- **Friday, March 11 is the deadline for updating the 2016 Congregational Leadership Report (yellow) and Lay Delegate Certification (pink) forms** that have been mailed to all rectors and other priests in charge of congregations. The forms are pre-printed with the information currently in the diocesan database. Congregations are asked to update the information on these forms and return them to the Convention Office by March 11. *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).*

- B-SAFE summer program partners—new and returning—are invited to gather on *Sunday, March 6, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill to begin **planning for B-SAFE 2016**. Lunch will be provided. Together with 55 partner congregations, B-SAFE provides a safe and learning-filled summer for more than 650 children and youth from low-income neighborhoods in Boston, Lower Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Chelsea. *FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Betsy Walsh, B-SAFE partner organizer (781-249-6554 or betsy@ststephensbos.org).*

- The second of two **Pre-Confirmation Retreats for adults** preparing to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church will be offered on *Saturday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour (120 Center Street) in Middleborough. The day will explore this next step in a lifelong faith journey through conversations and spiritual practices; one of the bishops will be present for part of the day. Lunch is included; cost is \$10 per person. Register online, [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).*

- 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. All are welcome.

This year's annual meeting will focus on women's roles in church formation and parish life, with a case study on researching archives. Speakers include Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett and the Rev. Dr. Maggie Arnold. Parish historians, parish administrators and all who are interested are encouraged to attend.

Registration and the PHS Spring Newsletter will be posted on the [Parish Historians Society Web page](#) in mid-March.

FOR INFORMATION: Lynn Smith, Parish Historians Society (617-482-4826, ext. 888 or PHS_Exec@hotmail.com).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- This spring's series of **Congregational Business Practices workshops** concludes with a final workshop on *Saturday, March 12* at St. Paul's Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield. The diocese's Congregational Consultants offer the workshop to educate parish leaders on the basics of parish business operations. Register online, [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants (617-527-2739 or cmeyer@diomass.org).

- **Sustainable House of Worship (SHOW) workshops** help congregations learn how to reduce their energy use and cost and evaluate potential energy-saving projects and the purchase of necessary supplies and equipment. In order to apply for a Green Grant or Green Loan (see page 7), at least two members of the congregation must attend a SHOW. The next SHOW takes place on *Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist (410 Washington Street) in Duxbury. Register online, [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Andrew Del Pilar, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or adelpilar@diomass.org).

- The Diocese of Massachusetts is sponsoring a **Godly Play training** opportunity *Thursday-Saturday, March 17-19* at St. Stephen's Church (16 Highland Avenue) in Cohasset. A Core Godly Play Training and Advanced Godly Play Training will take place simultaneously for experienced teachers and beginners. Scholarships for participants from the Diocese of Massachusetts are available. For information and to register, visit www.godlyplayfoundation.org.

- **Safe Church Training** will be offered on *Saturday, April 2, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. This training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power; outline prevention steps; offer ways to intervene; and equip parish leaders with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ. Doors open at 8 a.m. for check-in and light refreshments; participants bring their own lunch. Find more information and register online [here](#).

Additionally, 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).

● **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on *Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston. Online registration is open [here](#). Eucharistic visitors are trained to give the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. This training provides the needed licensing to be a eucharistic visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts.
FOR INFORMATION: Connie Melahoures, training coordinator (508-367-0516 or conmel@aol.com).

● **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).

● 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. Its focus is on the cultural, organizational and philanthropic practices unique to religious institutions.
FOR INFORMATION: www.nesynod.org/events/ecrf.

● The **Antiracism Ministry Team** in the Diocese of Massachusetts offers regular trainings, involving a participatory education model which offers participants 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).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2016 Green Improvement and Simple Acts Grants** are now available. *This is the final year for these grants.* Applicants for Green Improvement Grants have the opportunity to submit either a full application on March 15 for awards announced on April 22 (Earth Day), or a letter of intent on March 15, with an April 22 application deadline for awards announced in early June. For information on registering for the Sustainable House of Worship (SHOW) workshop required of Green Improvement Grant applicants, see page 5. Simple Acts applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Applications for **2016 Congregational Development Grants** are due on May 16.

Applications for **2016 Deanery Grants (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants)** are due by Oct. 17.

Applications and more information are available on the diocesan Web site, [here](#).

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Actions from the Feb. 25 Diocesan Council meeting will be reported in the April issue of *FYI*.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 17, 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: [vice president of institutional advancement](#) at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge; [parish administrator](#) at St. Paul's Church in Lynnfield; [assistant director of children's ministries](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; [executive director](#) of Life Together; [summer camp head chaplain](#) at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center; [organist and choir director](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Edgartown; [youth minister](#) at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; [minister of music](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading; [director of major gifts](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Boston; [music director](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth; and [church administrator](#) at Grace Church in New Bedford.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Go to www.diomass.org for details (Resources for Congregations & Clergy > Congregation & Clergy Support > [Clergy Deployment/Transition Ministry](#)).

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:

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
 NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church
 SOUTH YARMOUTH, St. David's Church
 WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Lynn Campbell has been called as rector of St. Peter's Church in Weston, beginning in June. She succeeds the Rev. Stephen Voysey, who will retire in April.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the April 6 issue is **Wednesday, March 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
