



Wednesday, June 1, 2016

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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**Mission Strategy
Drafting Team begins
work**

The Mission Strategy Drafting Team has begun its work in discerning a draft of a new mission strategy for the diocese that reflects God's call for the diocese's work in the world. The team's draft will respond to the findings in the revised report that was issued in early May by the listening team that gathered input from the diocesan community over the past several months. The drafting team's work will also be informed by demographic and other data and material relevant to the diocese and wider Episcopal Church, as well as previous iterations of diocesan mission strategies.

Continued on page 2

**Open hearing on 2017
diocesan budget is
June 7**

The 2017 diocesan budgeting process is underway, and the Budget Committee invites participation and input from the diocesan community. An open hearing on all aspects of the diocesan budget will be offered on *Tuesday, June 7, 7-9 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Members of the Mission Strategy Drafting Team will be present to answer questions about how the new mission strategy will affect the 2017 budget.

All are invited and welcome to attend the hearing.

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

**Diocesan Convention is
Nov. 4-5 in Mansfield**

This year's Diocesan Convention will take place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5* at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield. 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. 16*.

The summer Diocesan Convention mailing will be sent by e-mail 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 parish's annual meeting should e-mail their updated contact information by *Tuesday, June 28* to lsimons@diomass.org.

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

**Updated delegate & clergy
contact info needed for
June 30 mailing**

**Deacons to be ordained
at June 4 service**

Prayers and presence are requested for the ordination of deacons on *Saturday, June 4, 10:30 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Find more information [here](#).

#WearOrange: As a witness for reducing gun violence, Bishops United Against Gun Violence urges Episcopalians to wear orange on **Thursday, June 2** and post photos to social media using the hashtags #WearOrange and #Episcopal. Additionally, many clergy are joining the effort by wearing orange stoles on **Sunday, June 5**. Learn more [here](#).

Continued from page 1

The team has expressed its gratitude to everyone who participated in the listening process, which provided perspectives from many different voices from around the diocese, as well as to the listening team that spent many hours in lifting up those voices.

Working with the bishops, the team now at work will develop a draft of the new mission strategy by early August, in time to invite feedback from the diocesan community before the Diocesan Council approves the proposed mission strategy that will be presented at Diocesan Convention in November for final approval.

During this intensive process, the drafting team asks for everyone's prayers for guidance in bringing forth this statement of how the Diocese of Massachusetts will be directed and apply its resources in coming years.

More information about the mission strategy process, including a link to the revised listening process report, is at www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

The Crossing invites church presence at Boston Pride

The diocesan community is invited to march together in the Boston Pride Parade on *Saturday, June 11*, with line-up at 10:30 a.m. in Copley Square. The church's presence in the parade is an opportunity to proclaim and embody God's love for all God's people and celebrate the LGBTQ community in one of Boston's largest annual public events. Bishop Alan M. Gates will celebrate at an ecumenical Eucharist after the parade at 3 p.m. at Old West Church (131 Cambridge Street) in Boston. **A bulletin insert to help share the invitation to participate is available [here](#).** FOR INFORMATION: Paddy Cavanaugh, *The Crossing* (paddy@thecrossingboston.org).

ECM celebrates with night of witness and worship on June 14

Join Episcopal City Mission (ECM) on *Tuesday, June 14*, 6-9 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston for a night of prayer, celebration, food and fellowship, as it welcomes its new executive director, the Rev. Arrington Chambliss. This free "Night of Witness, Worship and Celebration" will include a gallery of grant recipients and a worship service, with the Rev. Mariama White-Hammond of Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain preaching, and a celebratory reception to follow. RSVP online at www.episcopalcitymission.org.

New Life Together executive director named

Kelsey Rice Bogdan has been appointed as the new executive director of Life Together, a strategic ministry in the diocese through which emerging young adult leaders reside together in intentional community while serving 10-month social justice fellowships in Boston, Lawrence and Fall River. The program is an affiliate of the national Episcopal Service Corps.

Herself a former Life Together fellow, Bogdan has been serving as Life Together's director of operations and external partnerships since May of 2015. She begins in her new role as executive director on June 1.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

“Kelsey brings to this position a proven track record of administrative strengths, together with an eagerness to serve the extended community of Life Together partners. She has the vision and leadership gifts to guide Life Together into its next chapter,” Bishop Alan M. Gates said of the new hire. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

- The **Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) Camp** is July 24-29 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. This special week at the camp is the official launch of a year-long program designed for young leaders entering ninth or 10th grade in the fall. The camp experience offers leadership development and faith formation, plus all that summer camp has to offer. At the end of the week, participants are introduced to the year-long Youth Leadership Academy and invited to continue (but signing up for the YLA week at camp is not a commitment to the year-long program). Register online at www.bchcenter.org/camp.

Those who can't make the launch week at camp but feel that the year-long YLA program speaks to them can apply online, [here](#).

- **Applications for the 2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC)** are now available. Find all instructions for completing applications [here](#). All applications are due *Thursday, Aug. 18*.

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.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org); www.diomassyouth.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established June 20 as **World Refugee Day**. Episcopalians are invited to mark the occasion with an event, prayer service or other activity. More information is available [here](#) or by contacting Episcopal Migration Ministries at emm@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6143, or go to www.episcopalmigrationministries.org.

- The [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#) has released an **“Election Engagement Toolkit”** for congregations that are eager to participate in the electoral process “faithfully, responsibly and legally.” It suggests that conversations on public policy issues, candidate forums, voter registration and issue education campaigns, engagement with young adults who are eligible to vote for the first time, get-out-the-vote campaigns and advocacy for voting rights legislation are particularly appropriate activities. Find the toolkit [here](#).

NOTES:

- **Summer hours during July and August at the diocesan and cathedral offices** at 138 Tremont Street in Boston will allow the staff to work either a four or a five-day week: those working Monday through Thursday will work extended hours those days. Certain offices will be open on Fridays for those working a five-day week. Meetings will be scheduled mainly Monday through Thursday, to allow the sextons to do more cleaning and office maintenance on Fridays. The regular Monday-Friday schedule will resume after Labor Day, on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

- This summer, staff will be **cleaning out the diocesan Resource Center and giving away materials**. Those whose churches are looking for resources on a particular subject or for a church library or adult education program are invited to plan a visit. Contact Amy Cook in advance at 617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org.

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- Two no-cost **introductory sessions to the [Living Compass program](#)** will be offered this summer, *10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (lunch included), on Monday, June 20 and Thursday, July 21*, in the Resource Center at 138 Tremont Street in Boston. This is a wellness program for churches that can be used both for formation and discipleship of church members as well as outreach to the community. Materials are flexible and well laid out, and are available for adults, parents and youth. The materials are more comprehensive than what can be viewed on the Living Compass Web site; this introductory session offers a full explanation of all the materials as well as ways to use them. Clergy and lay education leaders are invited. RSVP requested.
TO RSVP/FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- The annual **Congregational Resource Day** will be held on *Saturday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at Faith Community Church in Hopkinton. The day will once again feature a variety of workshops. Suggestions for specific workshops or topics are welcome.
FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2016 Deanery Grants (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants)** are available at www.diomass.org/deanery-grants. They are due by *Monday, Oct. 17*. Unawarded funds will be used for addendum grants after Oct. 17; congregations interested in addendum funds must note their interest in their initial grant requests.
FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ACTIONS:**
At its April 28 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a mission strategy update and voted to accept the nomination of Win Treese as co-chair of the Mission Strategy Drafting Team.

Voted that the assessment formula for 2017 is:

assessment due = 15.5% * BASE - \$6,000 (subject to a floor of 0) where the BASE for 2017 is equal to line 14 (“all other operating expenses”) from the 2014 parochial report, less line 7 (“assistance from diocese”).

For a mission, the 2017 assessment is two-thirds the amount that would be assessed if the congregation were a parish.

Voted to authorize the Assessment Coordinating Committee to consider and receive requests from congregations for adjustments to the 2017 scheduled assessments, with total adjustments not to exceed \$75,000.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia, on reviewing the assessment formula for 2018 and beyond.

Heard a report from the chief business officer, Gerry Sullivan, on the year-to-date financials.

Heard an update about Grace Chapel in Brockton.

At its May 19 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Welcomed a new member, the Rev. Phil LaBelle, who is filling the term of the Rev. Julie Carson.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Drafting Team.

Heard a recommendation from the Mission Hub Ad Hoc Committee on how to review mission hub program and budgets going forward.

Heard a report from the Treasurer’s Office on the 2017 budget draft.

Heard that the Executive Committee approved proposed adjustments to Bishop Gayle E. Harris’s mortgage, based on current market values.

Voted to appoint Rob Kelleher to the Assessment Coordinating Committee, joining Connie Melahoures, the Rev. Tom Mousin and Chris Trahan who were appointed by the Executive Committee.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, June 16, 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: [accountant](#), a position on the diocesan staff; [parish administrator](#) at St. Peter's Church in Weston; [Sunday school and youth coordinator](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth; [parish administrator](#) at St. Mark's Church in Burlington; [parish secretary](#) at St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford; [community development manager](#) for the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub; and [math/science teaching fellow](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Go to www.diomass.org for
details (Resources for Congrega-
tions & Clergy > Congregation &
Clergy Support > [Clergy Deploy-
ment/Transition Ministry](#)).

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:

CONCORD, Trinity Church

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:

None at this time.

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Tony Buquor has retired as rector of Trinity Church in Concord as of May 22.

The Rev. Sarah Conner has been appointed the interim priest at Trinity Church in Concord, starting July 1.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the July 6 issue is **Wednesday, June 29 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.