



Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org

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**MA bishops call for
48-hour election prayer
vigil**

The bishops of both Massachusetts dioceses are calling for a 48-hour election prayer vigil, from *noon on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6 through noon on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8.*

“As our nation approaches its Election Day on Nov. 8, we have a deep yearning for the Holy Spirit to be present in our national life. Individually we express this yearning in a variety of ways according to personal conscience. Collectively, we are called to express this yearning through prayer,” Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris of the Diocese of Massachusetts and Bishop Douglas J. Fisher of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts say in their call for an election vigil. Read the full text of their message [here](#).

All congregations are urged to participate in a way that best suits their local traditions and schedules. For some it may be as simple as concluding the Sunday prayers with an extended Litany for the Nation, or holding a special form of Morning Prayer on Nov. 8. Others may wish to hold extended vigils, with prayer in shifts offering continuous intercession.

Congregations are invited to share their vigil plans with the wider diocesan community by e-mailing details to news@diomass.org for posting at www.diomass.org/election-vigil. Resources are posted there as well.

Individuals are also encouraged to join their prayers with those of others during the vigil period. People can use [this Facebook event page](#) to share in prayer and discussion from wherever they may be, as well as for posting vigil plans and prayer resources.

**Join MA bishops for
pre-election walk-and-
talk event**

[Click here to register.](#)

Episcopalians of all ages are invited to join Bishop Alan M. Gates of the Diocese of Massachusetts and Bishop Douglas J. Fisher of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts on *Saturday, Oct. 22, 12-6 p.m.*, as they walk a stretch of both dioceses together, from Northborough to Southborough, and then join for a pre-election discussion program with young people about their concerns and hopes for the world. Youth from both dioceses are especially invited, but this special joint event is open to all.

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

A guide to help youth groups prepare for the event is available [here](#). Youth groups are encouraged to use the guide for their own local conversations regardless of participation in the Oct. 22 event.

**Diocesan Convention
forums coming up in Oct.**

[Click here to register for
Diocesan Convention.](#)

Online registration is open, [here](#), for the 231st annual Diocesan Convention, to take place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5* at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield. Materials will be sent to delegates and clergy on Oct. 6, and are posted at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2016.

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Pre-convention forums this month will offer an important opportunity for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including the proposed new mission strategy, resolutions and the proposed budget. Forums will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 19* at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield;
- *Thursday, Oct. 20* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- *Tuesday, Oct. 25* at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth; and
- *Wednesday, Oct. 26* at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham.

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

NOTES:

- The diocesan Global Mission Office would like congregations to know that staff members continue to be available to assist with **developing and furthering ministry with refugees and asylum seekers**. Resources are available for presenting a workshop to the congregation, connections with local agencies and an ever-growing list of parishes in this diocese which have been engaging in partnerships with refugees. In addition, both Laura Walta and the Rev. Holly Hartman are available to come and speak with congregations about this increasingly relevant ministry, and they welcome inquiries.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org) or The Rev. Holly Hartman (617-482-4826, ext. 351 or hhartman@diomass.org).

- The **Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry** invites the diocesan community to join for its **35th anniversary celebration**, "Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, Embracing the Future," on *Sunday, Oct. 9*. Bishop Alan M. Gates will be the celebrant at the 12:30 p.m. service of Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, with the Rev. Eric H.F. Law preaching. Clergy joining the procession will vest (red stole).

Following the service there will be a banquet at 3 p.m. at the China Pearl Restaurant (9 Tyler Street) in Boston, to which all are welcome. Musical entertainment will feature the ancient Chinese instrument Gu Zheng. Banquet tickets are \$40 per person (\$20 per child). RSVP for the banquet by e-mail to connienglam@diomass.org.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Connie Ng Lam, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 202 or connienglam@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The House of Bishops on Sept. 20 issued “A Word to the Church for the World” lamenting “the stark joylessness that marks our present time” and decrying “angry political rhetoric which rages while fissures widen within society along racial, economic, educational, religious, cultural and generational lines.”

“Every member of the church has been ‘called for a time such as this.’ (Esther 4:14) Let prophets tell the truth in love. Let reconcilers move boldly into places of division and disagreement. Let evangelists inspire us to tell the story of Jesus in new and compelling ways. Let leaders lead with courage and joy,” the bishops wrote.

Read the full message and view the video version [here](#).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

- It’s time to register for the **2016 Middle School Retreat**, *Friday-Sunday, Nov. 18-20*, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Led by the Diocesan Youth Council, the weekend features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, music by the band Ashes Remain and some much-needed time away from the rush of everyday routines in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God in our lives. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Registration closes when capacity is reached, or on Nov. 13. Register online [here](#).

- Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the people of St. Luke’s-San Lucas Church in Chelsea on *Saturday, Dec. 17, 6:30-9 p.m.*, for **Las Posadas**, a traditional Advent event in which those gathered will trace Mary and Joseph’s traveling search for shelter. As the group celebrates this well-known story from the Christian tradition, it will hold close in heart and mind the serious plight of modern-day refugees struggling to find shelter today. This is a bilingual and multicultural celebration with processions, music, food and hospitality. There is a registration fee of \$5 per participant (register [here](#)), but if cost is a barrier, contact the Office of Youth Ministry. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215, or hmsmith@diomass.org).*

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- The next **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** is *Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Register online [here](#). All clergy canonically resident or licensed in this diocese are to attend a Safe Church Training once every three years.

The next **Safe Church Training open to all** takes place *Saturday, Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at Grace Church (422 County Street) in New Bedford. Register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

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- The next **Eucharistic Visitor Training** is scheduled for *Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. This training provides the needed licensing to be a Eucharistic Visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Register online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Andrew Del Pilar, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or adelpilar@diomass.org).

 - Training led by the diocesan **Antiracism Ministry Team**, offering participants opportunities to share experiences, reflect on current issues and develop tools for change, will next be offered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston on: *Friday, Oct. 21, 5-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.* Register online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

 - The **Leadership Development Initiative** (LDI) is hosting a workshop on *Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, to explore the vocation of the church and the ways contemplative and organizing tools can enable us to fulfill our call to seek reconciliation and justice. The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$25 per person for food and materials. Register for the event [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Natalie Finstad, Leadership Development Initiative (natalie@LDITeam.org).

 - There will be a **Living Compass program training**, *Thursday-Friday, Nov. 17-18* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, with Scott and Holly Stoner training participants as certified wellness advocates. Living Compass is an Episcopal-based wellness program for churches that can be used both for formation and discipleship of church members as well as outreach to the community. Learn more about the program at www.livingcompass.org. Register online for the training [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

 - The deadline to apply for **clergy sabbatical grants for 2017** is *Friday, Oct. 14, 2016*. Applications are available [here](#). Completed applications should be sent to the attention of Marsha Searle, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111. Notifications of grant awards will be sent on Nov. 16.
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).
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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).
- Applications are being accepted monthly for **Mission Tithe Matching Grants**, with separate applications available for youth mission trips and second and third-year grants for previous recipients working with the same mission partner. Concept papers and applications from congregations with previously approved concepts are due on the 15th of each month for review at the end of the same month. Staff assistance with congregational discernment and document preparation is available, and all application materials are available [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At a specially scheduled meeting on Aug. 18, the Diocesan Council:
Approved clergy housing allowances.

Reviewed a draft of the proposed diocesan mission strategy and provided feedback.

At its Sept. 10 meeting, held at Trinity Church in Concord, the Diocesan Council:

Reviewed the latest draft of the proposed diocesan mission strategy.

Heard a proposal for evaluating the mission strategy once it is approved by Diocesan Convention.

Heard a report from the Budget Committee chair, the Rev. Stephen Voysey, on the proposed 2017 diocesan budget.

Voted to adopt the proposed mission strategy for proposal to Diocesan Convention.

Agreed on the process by which members of the Phase IV Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team would be nominated and elected.

Voted to adopt the Phase IV Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team charter.

Voted to accept the recommendation of the Assessment Coordinating Committee to lower the 2017 assessments for 16 parishes by a total of \$75,000.

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Voted to endorse the 2017 proposed budget as presented and to recommend favorable action by Diocesan Convention on the motions presented in the budget book.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia, on the work of the Assessment Formula Review Committee and on Budget Committee vacancies.

Heard an update on Diocesan Convention nominations, resolutions and proposed amendments to the diocesan Constitution and Canons.

Heard that the Executive Committee participated in a Visions, Inc., training over the summer; voted to adopt the Visions, Inc., guidelines as its own in members' work with one another; and to review said guidelines annually.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Oct. 27, 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: two positions, [parish bookkeeper](#) and [parish coordinator](#), at St. Mark's Church in Southborough; [communications assistant](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [office manager](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn; [chaplain](#) at Sherrill House; [administrative assistant](#) for the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub; [minister of music](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading; [nursery attendant](#) at All Saints Church of the North Shore in Danvers; and [Christian education director](#) at St. Michael's Church in Marblehead.

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:

CONCORD, Trinity Church
FRANKLIN, St. John's Church

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Christen Mills has been appointed priest-in-charge of Epiphany Church in Walpole. Her first Sunday there will be Nov. 6.

The Rev. Deborah Woodward has been appointed interim priest at St. John's Church in Franklin, effective Sept. 11.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the Nov. 2 issue is **Wednesday, Oct. 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
