



Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018

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

**Gather a team for
“Brave Conversations”
Spring Learning Event**

Register by Feb. 26 [here](#).

This year’s diocesan Spring Learning Event—*Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston—will engage the need for “Brave Conversations” among people with different perspectives, passions and experiences. Congregations and worshiping communities are invited to gather a group and come together with others to acquire and share techniques and inspiration for establishing the church as a gracious place for dialogue on challenging topics and for expanding the possibilities for reconciliation and transformation.

All are welcome. Register online by Feb. 26 [here](#).

Participants will have the opportunity to experience a gracious dialogue process focused on the topic of race; learn how to provide hospitality and prepare people for dialogue, not debate; learn about inviting people into initial dialogue to achieve mutual understanding through deep listening; and access curriculum resources for continued learning. The event aims to equip participants with new and expanded skills that they can use in their churches and communities.

The Kaleidoscope Institute will facilitate the day’s program, adapted specifically for use in congregations and communities in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

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

**Year of Preaching series
continues with “Naming
Death, Claiming Hope”**

Diocesan clergy are invited to take part in a free day-long preaching conference, “Naming Death, Claiming Hope,” featuring as guest speaker Dr. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching and Director of the Early Career Pastoral Leadership Program at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology. The conference will be offered on *Tuesday, March 6, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street) in Boston.

Register online [here](#).

The day’s program will examine Christian hope in the face of death from several perspectives. Sessions will focus on recent trends and changes in American death rituals and funeral practices; an examination of the role of preaching at a funeral or memorial service; and using the Holy Week lectionary to explore preaching possibilities during the week commemorating Jesus’ own death.

FOR INFORMATION: Diane Pound, Office of the Bishop (617-482-4826, ext. 407 or dpound@diomass.org).

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

**Cathedral Lenten
Preaching Series focuses
on “From Fear to Hope”**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul’s “From Fear to Hope” Lenten Preaching Series will be offered on *Thursdays, Feb. 15-March 29*. There will be a simple worship service with sermon at 12 p.m., followed by conversation with the preacher over a brown-bag lunch. All are welcome. Preachers will be:

- Feb. 15—The Rev. Kate Malin, Dean, Concord River Deanery;
- Feb. 22—The Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean, Alewife Deanery;
- March 1—Bishop Alan M. Gates;
- March 8—Bishop Bud Cederholm;
- March 15—Bishop Gayle E. Harris;
- March 22—The Rev. Jeff Mello, Dean, Charles River Deanery;
- March 29—Bishop Barbara C. Harris.

FOR INFORMATION: Ethel Crawford, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or elc@diomass.org).

**New priests to be
ordained**

The diocesan community’s prayers and presence are requested for these upcoming services of ordination to the priesthood:

- The Rev. Dan Bell on *Saturday, Feb. 24, 10:30 a.m.*, at Grace Church (160 High Street) in Medford; and
- The Rev. Amy Whitcomb Slemmer on *Saturday, March 3, 3 p.m.*, at St. Stephen’s Church (16 Highland Avenue) in Cohasset.

FOR INFORMATION: Contact the host church or the Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext. 514 or edie@diomass.org).

**Save these dates:
Clergy Conference is
April 23-25**

The annual Clergy Conference for diocesan clergy takes place *Monday-Wednesday, April 23-25* at the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster. This year’s guest presenter will be Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Registration information will be available soon.

FOR INFORMATION: Diane Pound, Office of the Bishop (617-482-4826, ext. 407 or dpound@diomass.org).

NOTES:

● **2018 Diocesan Convention date set:** This year’s convention will be held on *Saturday, Nov. 3*, location to be determined.

● **Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification forms** for 2018 have been e-mailed to all rectors or other priests in charge of congregations. The forms and instructions also are available [here](#). Electronic forms are being used this year to collect all information; paper copies will not be mailed. The information gathered will be published in the 2018 Diocesan Directory.

Completed forms are due back as soon as possible after the congregation’s annual meeting and no later than *Friday, March 30*. E-mail them to the Office of Convention and Council at lsimons@diomass.org.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Bill Parnell (617/482-4826, ext. 205 or bparnell@diomass.org).

- **B-SAFE summer program partners**—new and returning—are invited to gather on *Sunday, March 4, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill to begin planning for B-SAFE 2018. Lunch will be provided.

Together with about 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, Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Chelsea.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Betsy Walsh, B-SAFE partner organizer (781-249-6554 or betsy@ssyboston.org).

- The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., is **now hiring staff for the 2018 summer camp season, June 23-Aug. 4**. Open positions include junior counselors (16-17 years old), counselors (18 years and older), lifeguards, program heads and leadership staff. All positions are paid and include room, board and on-site health care. Staff applicants should be excited about living and working with children in a fun faith community and modeling healthy, positive behavior. Visit bchcamp.campbrainstaff.com to apply online.

FOR INFORMATION: John Koch, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center (603-547-3400 or john@bchcenter.org).

- The **Life Together program is recruiting applicants**: young adults (ages 21-32) searching for spiritual growth, meaningful work and connection to community. Life Together is a diocesan-supported, Boston-based program of the Episcopal Service Corps focused on cultivating the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders, through spiritual practice, social justice, leadership training and community building. To apply, interested young adults can fill out the common Episcopal Service Corps [application](#). To learn more about Life Together visit www.lifetogethercommunity.org, follow on Instagram and Facebook, or e-mail to apply@diomassintern.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has invited Episcopalians to join the more than 25 partners presenting the **Good Book Club**, a churchwide program for reading the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles during the Lent and Easter seasons in 2018. The Good Book Club readings begin the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, Feb. 11 and finish on Pentecost, May 20. Find resources at www.goodbookclub.org.

- The publishing and media ministry Forward Movement surveyed 12,000 people from more than 200 Episcopal congregations and has released a report on its findings, which includes analysis of the varying degrees of **spiritual vitality and cultures of discipleship** found in Episcopal congregations. Find an infographic of key findings [here](#). The full report is available [here](#).

- The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations has produced a **new curriculum on civil discourse** and invites congregations to use it to better understand and practice civil discourse, particularly as it relates to politics, policy and legislation. The curriculum is available for download [here](#).
- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has called for an increased commitment to the two remaining Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). He invites Episcopalians "to deepen our participation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation by **dedicating offerings at observances of the Feast of Absalom Jones to support the two remaining Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCUs)**: St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C., and Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C." The two institutions of higher education were founded in the late 19th century as an Episcopal Church missionary venture. "These schools bring educational, economic and social opportunity to often resource-poor communities, and they offer many blessings into the life of the Episcopal Church," Curry said in his appeal.

Donations can be made online [here](#); bulletin inserts are available [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Tara Elgin Holley, Episcopal Church Office of Development (tholley@episcopalchurch.org).

- Congregations are invited to observe **Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday** on the *first Sunday in Lent, Feb. 18* or on another Sunday in Lent or later in the year. Special resources and a planning guide for Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday are available at www.episcopalrelief.org/Sunday.

Additionally, Episcopal Relief & Development's 2018 Lenten Meditations booklets, in English and Spanish, are available for download at www.episcopalrelief.org/Lent, where a sign-up is also available for daily e-mail meditations in English and Spanish.

- Registration is now open, [here](#), for the March 15-17 **Evangelism Matters conference**. Hosted this year by St. Paul's Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Evangelism Matters is a churchwide event for those seeking to share, learn and grow the church's capacity and passion for evangelism. It is co-sponsored by the Episcopal Church's Evangelism Initiatives Team and Forward Movement.

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will address the conference, and a diverse team of evangelism leaders will lead plenary sessions and workshops. Many sessions will be Webcast live and available for download; individual and satellite group participation is welcomed.

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617/482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has scheduled two Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 16-17 and April 6-7*. Both retreats will be held 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 retreats are led by the members of the Diocesan Youth Council who will lead small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journeys. Retreats also provide potential confirmands a chance to meet one of our bishops and to ask them questions.

Advance registration is required. Register online [here](#).

- The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is partnering again with Trinity Church in Boston to offer the **Good Friday Overnight** for youth and youth leaders, set for *March 30-31*. Join young people from across the diocese to experience the practice of compassionate witness through creative expression, contemplation and the exploration of prayer, worship and reflection inspired by the traditions of the Taizé community in France. The highlight for many is the candle-lit worship late at night in the darkened chancel of Trinity's magnificent sanctuary. Get more details and register online [here](#).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on two upcoming Saturdays: [Feb. 17](#) at St. John's Church (95 Deerfield Avenue) in Westwood; and [Feb. 24](#) at St. David's Church (205 Old Main Street) in South Yarmouth. Click on the date links to register.

Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained to administer 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, Eucharistic Visitor Training coordinator, at conmel@aol.com.

- **"Train the Trainer" Workshop:** Opportunities to become a trainer exist in the areas of safe church practices, racial reconciliation and social justice, and Eucharistic Visitors. Trainers will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the theological and spiritual nature of this ministry, develop skills, access current program information and become part of a transformative experience.

Potential trainers will have been involved in a congregation for at least a year, can provide references and have completed training or are willing to be trained in a specific ministry program.

To participate in the Train the Trainer Workshop on *Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston: Complete an application (download it [here](#)) and return it to the Rev. Karen Montagno at kmontagno@diomass.org.

● **Congregational Business Practices Workshops:** New vestry member? Treasurer? Want to understand the business aspects of your congregation? The diocesan Congregational Consultants are once again offering Business Practices Workshops several times this winter and spring. These workshops are important for vestry members, officers and clergy—anyone involved in the business matters of the congregation.

Workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on:

- [Saturday, Feb. 24](#) at St. Mary's Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable;
- [Saturday, March 10](#) at St. Paul's Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield;
- [Saturday, March 17](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and
- [Saturday, March 24](#) at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston.

Use the date links above to register online.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants (617-482-4826, ext. 305 or cmeyer@diomass.org).

● An **Episcopal Relief & Development disaster preparedness training** will be offered on *Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The training will focus on the disaster preparedness planning process and will facilitate the development of a ministry that helps congregations anticipate and prepare for local, unexpected disastrous events, as well as how to respond effectively to national disasters. The session will explore how members of congregations can create and become familiar with various models and approaches, what resources and tools are available, and what supports and structures already exist to use when doing this important work. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be prepared to function as the ER&D point person for the congregation. Clergy are welcome and lay participation encouraged. RSVP by e-mail to jay@stpauls-nbpt.org (please indicate any dietary restrictions).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Jay Jordan (978-465-5351 or jay@stpauls-nbpt.org).

● A **Global Mission Summit** is planned for *Saturday, April 21, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The event will offer workshops on mission formation, discernment, models of mission, relationship building, mutuality and social justice—all from the dual perspective of the theological and the practical. Whether new to mission engagement or experienced, participants will hear from thought-provoking speakers, take part in interactive workshops, have plenty of time for networking and participate in a joyous international celebration of the Eucharist. Online registration is open [here](#).

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

- **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** will be offered on *Tuesday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham. There is no fee for this training, but pre-registration is required. Register online [here](#). All clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts are expected to attend Safe Church Training once every three years.

Two **additional Safe Church Training events, open to all**, have been scheduled: [Saturday, Feb. 24](#) at St. James's Church (1991 Massachusetts Avenue) in Cambridge; and [Saturday, May 12](#) at St. John's Church (23 High Street) in Sharon. Click on the date links to register.

This training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power, to outline steps toward preventing abuse and to offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs. The diocese is committed to healthy church environments and needs the shared wisdom and experience of everyone to make them so.

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

DIOCESAN GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2018 Deanery Grants** (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants) are now available [here](#). Award decisions must be submitted from deaneries to the diocesan office by *Monday, Oct. 15*.

FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

- Applications for **2018 Congregational Development Grants** are now available [here](#). Congregations intending to apply must submit a complete draft of their application cover page by *Thursday, March 1*. Full applications are due by *Monday, April 23*. *FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).*

- Applications are being accepted monthly for **Mission Tithe Matching Grants**, with separate applications available for pilgrimages and for second and third-year grants for work with the same mission partner as a previous grant. 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 discernment and document preparation is available. Application materials are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission Projects (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its annual retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., Jan. 19-20, the Diocesan Council:

Participated in a Strategic Ministry site visit training and voted to approve the creation of a Strategic Ministry Committee.

Discussed the 2019 budget and assessment formula.

Voted to approve clergy housing allowances for 2018.

Voted to increase the 2018 General Convention budget by \$10,000.

Voted to elect the following people to the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council for one-year terms: The Rev. Karen Coleman, Carol Friar, Betsy Ridge Madsen, The Rev. Tom Mousin, The Rev. Debbie Phillips and The Rev. Meghan Sweeney.

Heard a report from the mission hub program director, Jin Min Lee, and voted provisional approval for the newly forming elder ministry network to be given \$17,412 in one-time start-up funding. This is a transfer of unspent funds from the 2017 budget of the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub whose work has concluded.

Discussed the future of the mission hubs and Mission Hub Implementation Committee and voted that \$40,000 be transferred to the 2018 administrative operation budget of the mission hubs, and that the estimated \$40,000 remaining in anticipated campaign income be considered as a contingency fund in case of a shortfall in campaign income.

Discussed next steps in the creation of a Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Bill Parnell (617/482-4826, ext. 205 or bparnell@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 on the diocesan staff, [missioner for networking and formation](#) and [director of development](#); [investment coordinator](#) for the Trustees of Donations; [music director](#) at St. John's Church in Franklin; [director of youth ministry](#) at St. Mark's Church in Southborough; [Sunday school teacher](#) at the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Waban; two positions, [administrative assistant](#) and [event sexton](#), at Emmanuel Church in Boston; [summer camp and program director](#) at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.; [coordinator for children and youth ministries](#) at St. James's Church in Amesbury and St. Paul's Church in Newburyport; [music director](#) at St. Paul's Church in Nantucket; and [Sunday nursery care provider](#) at Trinity Church in Concord.

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:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church
 HARWICH PORT, Christ Church
 HAVERHILL, Trinity Church
 LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church
 LYNN, St. Stephen's Church
 NANTUCKET, St. Paul's Church
 NATICK, St. Paul's Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

BOSTON, Trinity Church
 DUXBURY, Church of St. John the Evangelist
 VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

COHASSET, St. Stephen's Church
 FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
 HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church
 MEDFORD, Grace Church
 WALTHAM, Christ Church
 WRENTHAM, Trinity Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. John Beach has resigned as rector of St. Paul's Church in Nantucket and has been appointed interim priest at St. Thomas's Church in Taunton beginning in February.

The Rev. Kathryn Elledge has been appointed interim priest at St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln.

The Rev. Katherine Malin has resigned as rector of St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln to accept the call to become rector of Christ's Church in Rye, N.Y.

The Rev. Dr. Katherine Ragsdale has been appointed bridge priest at Christ Church in Harwich Port beginning Jan. 21.

The Rev. Jon Strand has resigned as rector of St. Paul's Church in Natick to accept the call to become rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, Va.

The Rev. Dee Woodward has been appointed interim priest at Grace Church in Medford, replacing the Rev. Ann Broomell who has retired.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the March 7 issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.