



**Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019**

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**  
138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)  
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**Presiding Bishop Curry  
to make Massachusetts  
visit April 26-29**

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has scheduled a visitation in the Diocese of Massachusetts, *Friday-Monday, April 26-29*. Plans for how the weekend will take shape are in the works, with an intention to have at least one public gathering with Bishop Curry in addition to gatherings with other groups in the diocese and time with the clergy at the start of the Clergy Conference in Brewster on *Monday, April 29 beginning at 10 a.m.* More information will be available soon; in the meantime, clergy, congregations and the wider diocesan community are invited to keep the visitation dates in mind as planning for this exciting opportunity continues.

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**Bishops issue pastoral  
on suspended time limit  
for initiating clergy mis-  
conduct cases**

Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris issued a pastoral letter on Jan. 17 to the people of the diocese regarding the General Convention's three-year suspension of the Episcopal Church canon that places a time limit on initiating proceedings in cases of clergy sexual misconduct against adults. From Jan. 1, 2019, until Dec. 31, 2021, those who wish to bring a case of sexual misconduct against a member of the clergy will be able to do so, regardless of how long ago the alleged misconduct occurred.

The bishops' pastoral letter is to be published in each congregation of the diocese by *Sunday, Feb. 17*. It is available on the diocesan website [here](#).

In the Diocese of Massachusetts, a recently formed task force has begun work toward additional education and a story-sharing process. More information will be available soon.

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**New priest to be  
ordained**

The diocesan community's prayers and presence are invited for the upcoming service of ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. Tamra Tucker on *Saturday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Tucker is the pastor and lead organizer for The Crossing worshiping community of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

*FOR INFORMATION:* Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or [kvetiac@diomass.org](mailto:kvetiac@diomass.org)).

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**Registration is open for  
annual Clergy Confer-  
ence, April 29-May 1**

The annual diocesan Clergy Conference takes place *Monday-Wednesday, April 29-May 1* at the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster. Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will open this year's conference on *Monday morning at 10 a.m.* Conference guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary. Find more information about the conference and online registration [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION:* Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordination (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).

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**“What is truth?”:  
Lenten Preaching Series  
begins March 7**

Pilate’s question to Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:38), resonates through the ages, as we each stand before God wrestling with questions of meaning and identity. In our time, the idea of truth is under attack in new ways, challenging our coherence as a society and the witness of the church. This Lent, the annual preaching series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will feature bishops, scholars, a poet and a journalist engaging the question, “What is truth?” All are welcome.

The series takes place on *Thursdays, March 7-April 11, 12-1:30 p.m.*, featuring a simple worship service with guest sermon, followed by a light lunch and conversation with the preacher:

- *March 7:* Bishop Gayle E. Harris;
- *March 14:* Dr. Sally Haslanger—Ford Professor of Philosophy and Women’s and Gender Studies, MIT;
- *March 21:* Regie Gibson—Poet, writer, educator and National Poetry Slam champion;
- *March 28:* Dr. Jonathan Cavillo—Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Theology;
- *April 4:* Matthew Bell—Reporter, Public Radio International’s “The World”; and
- *April 11:* Bishop Alan M. Gates.

A poster, for downloading and sharing, is available [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or [kvetiac@diomass.org](mailto:kvetiac@diomass.org)).*

**Join “Encounters in  
the Holy Land” mission  
pilgrimage, Oct. 1-15**

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Debbie Phillips for “Encounters in the Holy Land,” a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, *Oct. 1-15*. The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, healthcare and peacemaking ministries.

The registration deadline is May 15.

The group will meet three times before the trip for orientation and community building. Estimated cost is \$4,100 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by July 15.

*FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org)).*

**NOTES:**

- **Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification Forms for 2019** have been e-mailed to all clergy in charge of congregations and to congregational administrative contacts. The forms and instructions are also available on the diocesan website [here](#). Electronic reporting is being used again this year to collect all information; paper copies will not be mailed. Completed forms are due back as soon as possible after the congregation’s annual meeting and no later than *Friday, March 29*. *FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or [csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org)).*

- A diocesan **Evangelism Network** is forming. Areas of interest include social media, storytelling and capturing, worshiping community welcoming, education and formation, revivals and church planting. The network is developing a list of evangelism ideas and activities that will be published in the coming weeks. The group invites members of the diocesan community to share ideas and send photos of their evangelism efforts by e-mailing [diomassevangelism@google.com](mailto:diomassevangelism@google.com).

*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or [mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org)).*

- The diocesan **20s and 30s Task Force**, charged with examining successful models of engagement of adults in their 20s and 30s, has launched. As it begins its work, the group is very committed to finding ways to engage as many voices as possible in its progress throughout the year. The group encourages comment and feedback about [this list](#) of questions with which it is starting its work. The list, developed during the group's first meeting, will be used to organize and shape the course of the group's work together this spring.

The group is tasked with reporting its findings and recommendations during the 234th annual Diocesan Convention in November. Those interested in helping in the work of this task force or participating in one of its focus groups are invited to contact one of the two co-chairs, Sarah Neumann ([sneumann3@gmail.com](mailto:sneumann3@gmail.com)) or the Rev. Suzanne Wade ([revsuzannewade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzannewade@gmail.com)), or the diocesan youth missioner, the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)).

- The Massachusetts Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) will hold its annual **Absalom Jones Celebration** on *Sunday, Feb. 10 at 4 p.m.* at St. Bartholomew's Church (239 Harvard Street) in Cambridge. All are welcome.

*FOR INFORMATION: St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge (617-354-8582).*

- **Registration for summer camp** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., is open at [www.bchcenter.org/camp](http://www.bchcenter.org/camp), where more details on programs and session dates are also available. Questions may be directed to the camp registrar, Abby, at [abby@bchcenter.org](mailto:abby@bchcenter.org).

The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center is accepting reservations for retreats and conferences through December 2020. Contact Jennifer Boyd at [jennifer@bchcenter.org](mailto:jennifer@bchcenter.org) with any questions or to register a group.

- **Life Together recruitment for 2019-2020** is ongoing: Know someone who might be a good fit for Life Together or another Episcopal Service Corps program? The Episcopal Service Corps online application is available at [www.EpiscopalServiceCorps.org](http://www.EpiscopalServiceCorps.org).

Life Together is a 10-month fellowship program based in Boston and surrounding areas, focused on cultivating the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders, through spiritual practice, social justice, leadership training and community building. Fellows range in age from 21 to 32 and come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Housing and utilities, health insurance and a modest living stipend are provided. Learn more about Life Together by visiting [www.lifetogethercommunity.org](http://www.lifetogethercommunity.org), following on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), or e-mailing [apply@diomassintern.org](mailto:apply@diomassintern.org).

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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- The **Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP) annual conference** will be held in Boston this year, *Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 20-23*. The CEEP “What’s New, What’s Now, What’s Next” conference is being hosted by Trinity Church in Boston and held at the Westin Copley Place hotel. This is the largest annual gathering in the Episcopal Church, according to CEEP, and a forum for both clergy and lay leaders to have conversation about the challenges and opportunities faced by parishes across the diocese and around the country. The conference will feature 33 workshops and 11 pre-conference sessions, in addition to a keynote by Dr. Christena Cleveland of Duke University and a closing address by the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

As a way to thank the host diocese, CEEP is offering members of the Diocese of Massachusetts an opportunity to register at the member rate with an additional \$100 discount on registration fees. More information about the conference is available at [www.ceepconference.com](http://www.ceepconference.com). To register using the discounted rate, contact [ceep@bishopmccann.com](mailto:ceep@bishopmccann.com).

- **New “Way of Love” resources for Lent and Easter** include a set of seven adult forums that ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the “Way of Love”; a Lenten quiet day curriculum; and a 50-day “Living the Way of Love, Transformed” Facebook-based platform inviting participants to share and inspire each other in Eastertide with accounts of how they are living the “Way of Love.” Find all three online [here](#).

Additional churchwide Lenten resources are collected [here](#).

- The **Episcopal Church’s Constitution and Canons**, together with the Rules of Order, as adopted and revised by the General Convention of 2018, are **now available online**, at no cost, [here](#). The link can also be used to purchase printed copies in English and Spanish for \$35 each.

*FOR INFORMATION: Office of the General Convention ([gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org)); [www.generalconvention.org](http://www.generalconvention.org).*

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## **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](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)).

- The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is partnering with Trinity Church in Boston for a Lenten-themed overnight event. Youth groups and young people will gather for the **Lent Launch Lock-In**, Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10, to explore with each other the potentials and the promise of this holy season. Stage director and teacher Kristen Cairns will use the tools of theater to help the group begin its exploration, and music, spoken word and the majestic Trinity Church worship space will all be utilized during the event as well. The retreat concludes with everyone participating in the 9 a.m. Sunday service, followed by a group presentation during Trinity's Sunday morning adult educational forum. Find information and online registration [here](#).

- The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has scheduled two Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 22-23 and April 5-6*. 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. Members of the Diocesan Youth Council will lead small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journey, and one of the bishops will attend each retreat. Advance registration is required. Register online [here](#). A recruiting flier is available for download [here](#).

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## **TRAINING & LEARNING:**

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour (2112 County Street) in Somerset. Register online [here](#). This training provides the required licensing to be a Eucharistic Visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained and authorized to administer the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services.

*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordination (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

- **An Episcopal Relief & Development disaster preparedness training** will be offered on *Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Lunch will be provided. The training will facilitate the development of a ministry that assists congregations in anticipating and preparing for local, unexpected disastrous events. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be prepared to function as the Episcopal Relief & Development point person for the congregation. Lay participation is encouraged and clergy are welcome. RSVP by e-mail to [jay@stpauls-nbpt.org](mailto:jay@stpauls-nbpt.org) (please indicate any food restrictions).

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Jay Jordan, Diocesan Disaster Preparedness Coordinator (978-465-5351 or [jay@stpauls-nbpt.org](mailto:jay@stpauls-nbpt.org)).*

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● **Province I Faith Formation Leaders Gathering:** This year's gathering of faith formation leaders from New England dioceses is designed to give experiences of the "Way of Love" practices that Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has invited Episcopalians to take on, and to learn ways to bring them to our communities. It takes place *Thursday (5 p.m.)-Saturday (1 p.m.), March 14-16* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Find more information and register online [here](#).

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

Click on the date links to register online for workshops scheduled on the following *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.:*

- [March 16](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- [March 23](#) at Trinity Church (131 West Emerson Street) in Melrose;
- [March 30](#) at Trinity Church (One Blue Hill River Road) in Canton; and
- [April 6](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd (74 High Street) in Wareham.

*FOR INFORMATION:* Consultants coordinator Chris Meyer ([cmeyer@diomass.org](mailto:cmeyer@diomass.org)) or events coordinator Jennifer Garrett (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).

● The spring **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** takes place on *Tuesday, May 14, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at St. Gabriel's Church (124 Front Street) in Marion. All clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts are expected to attend Safe Church Training once every three years. There is no fee for this refresher training but pre-registration is required. Find information and register online [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION:* Martha Gardner, Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or [mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org)).

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## JOB POSTINGS:

Go to [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)  
(Resources for Congregations & Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [payroll and benefits manager](#), a position on the diocesan staff; [financial administrator](#) for Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries; [organist-pianist](#) at St. Peter's-San Pedro Church in Salem; [parish administrator](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; two positions, [director of development](#) and [lead reading teacher](#), at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; [organist-music director](#) at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury; and [parish administrator](#) at St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge.

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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

For more information visit the [Diocesan Council webpage](#).

At its annual retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Jan. 18-19, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from the Strategic Ministry Committee, including a summary of its work from 2018 and its plans for the future.

Discussed the formation of the Assessment Formula Review Committee to review formulas for 2021.

Voted to approve the charter for the Financial Advisory Committee.

Voted to approve the appointment of Chelsea Smith as acting clerk and assistant secretary of the diocese.

Voted to approve the following appointments to the Budget Committee: Rob Kelleher (term ending in 2019) and Virginia Rogers, Tom Phillips and Philipp Bliedung (terms ending in 2021).

Voted to approve the change of Grace Chapel in Brockton from the Taunton River Deanery to the South Shore Deanery.

Heard a report from Diocesan Council youth representatives about improving communication between church leadership and young people in the diocese.

Established a working group to look at leadership development within the diocese.

Discussed clergy compensation.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

**FOR INFORMATION:** Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or [csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org)).

## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

Transition ministry is overseen by the regional canons:

- The Rev. Martha L. Hubbard, Northern and Western Region
- The Rev. Kelly A. O'Connell, Southern Region
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol J. Gallagher, Central Region

Inquiries may be directed to them by e-mail to:

[regionalcanons@diomass.org](mailto:regionalcanons@diomass.org).

Please also visit the [transition ministry webpage](#).

### **CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:**

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church  
FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit  
NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church  
NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church  
WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

### **CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

HARWICH PORT, Christ Church  
MELROSE, Trinity Church  
NATICK, St. Paul's Church  
NEWBURYPORT, St. Paul's Church  
SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour  
SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church

### **CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

LYNN, St. Stephen's Church  
NEWTON LOWER FALLS, St. Mary's Church  
WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:**

LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church  
TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church  
WALTHAM, Christ Church

**OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**

BEVERLY FARMS, St. John's Church: [Curate](#)  
CAMBRIDGE, [Episcopal Chaplain at Harvard](#)  
NORTH ANDOVER, Brooks School: [Minister](#)  
WELLESLEY, St. Andrew's Church:  
[Assistant Rector for Youth and Family](#)

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Melissa Buono has been appointed bridge priest at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton.

The Rev. Mark D.W. Edington has been elected bishop of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe and has completed his ministry at St. John's Church in Newtonville.

The Rev. Gregory Johnston was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, Jan. 5 at St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln by Bishop Alan M. Gates.

The Rev. Jennifer McCracken was ordained to the priesthood on Sunday, Jan. 27 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston by Bishop Gayle E. Harris.

The Rev. Meghan Sweeney was installed as rector of All Saints' Church in Attleboro on Sunday, Jan. 27.

The Rev. Jennifer Vath was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, Jan. 12 at Christ Church in Andover by Bishop Alan M. Gates.

The Rev. Dee Woodward has been appointed bridge priest at All Saints' Church in Whitman.

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**NEXT *fyi*:**

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the March 6 issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

Find the 2019 schedule of diocesan newsletter deadlines and issue dates posted online [here](#).

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