



Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
(617) 482-5800 / (617) 482-4826

[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

**Online book groups:
Next up is “How to Be an
Antiracist”**

[How to Be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi is next up for discussion in the series of online book groups now underway, inspired by diocesan mission strategy themes of reimagining congregations, building relationships and engaging the world. K. Holly Maze Carter of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, a member of the diocesan Global Mission Commission, will facilitate the discussion of *How to Be an Antiracist* on *Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 7 to 8 p.m.* The series continues on *Wednesday, March 25, 7-8 p.m.*, with discussion of the book [Climate Church, Climate World](#) by Jim Antal, facilitated by the Rev. Lise Hildebrandt of the diocesan Creation Care Justice Network.

Everyone is invited to join one or both of these evening discussions via the online video conferencing platform, Zoom. Find the full schedule and Zoom links [here](#). Questions may be e-mailed to missionstrategy@diomass.org.

**Regional Wardens Days:
Calling all new and
continuing wardens**

Regional Wardens Days are a new offering this year designed to equip wardens for leadership through studying and praying together, reflecting on successes and challenges, sharing resources and building collegiality with other wardens. These opportunities are a response to the diocesan [mission strategy](#)'s call to bring resources to congregations and support lay leadership. Wardens are invited to note the applicable gathering for their [region](#) and register online.

- Southern Region: *Saturday, March 7* at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth (register [here](#));
- Northern and Western Region: *Saturday, March 28* at the Parish of the Epiphany (70 Church Street) in Winchester (register [here](#)); and
- Central Region: *Saturday, May 9* at Trinity Church (414 Sumner Street) in Stoughton (register [here](#)).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

**Clergy Conference
registration is now open**

The annual diocesan Clergy Conference takes place *Monday-Wednesday, April 27-29* at the Babson Executive Conference Center (1 Snyder Drive) in Wellesley. This year's guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, William Maude Chair in Systematic Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary. The registration deadline is *Friday, March 27*. Find more information about the conference and online registration [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

**Save these May dates:
Clergy Professional
Development Days**

Clergy Professional Development Days are a new offering this spring for all diocesan clergy, and will feature guest presenter Donna Hicks, Ph.D., of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and author of *Leading With Dignity* and *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*. These will take place on *Wednesday, May 13, Thursday, May 14* and *Saturday, May 16*, with times and locations to be set soon.

In addition to the program with Dr. Hicks, the schedule at each Professional Development Day will include a Safe Church review segment that will fulfill the in-person refresher requirement for those clergy who are due for one this year.

Clergy are asked to save the dates and watch for details and registration information.

**Young Adult Advisory
Committee now being
formed**

In response to the 2019 Diocesan Convention [resolution](#) “Engaging Young Adults Fully in the Life of Our Church,” Bishop Alan M. Gates has asked the Rev. Isaac Martinez and Sarah Neumann to form the new Young Adult Advisory Committee called for in the resolution and to serve as its co-chairs. The committee is charged with launching and coordinating efforts to better engage young adults fully in the life of the church, guided by the [recommendations of last year’s 20s and 30s Task Force](#). The intent is that this new committee will include some members of that task force as well as new members. Anyone interested in being involved in the work of this committee or who has someone to recommend should contact the co-chairs as soon as possible.

In the meantime, an informal community of young adults across the diocese is forming through a new Facebook group, “[Episcopalians Experiencing their 20s and 30s \(in Eastern Massachusetts\)](#).” Those interested in participating are invited to follow the group, add their voices and keep up with the latest announcements about new activities as they are planned.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Isaac Martinez (isaacpmartinez@gmail.com) or Sarah Neumann (sneumann3@gmail.com).

NOTES:

- The filing period is now open for **2020 Congregational Leadership Reports and Delegate Certification Forms for Diocesan Convention**. Find the two forms on the diocesan website [here](#). The information that congregations provide annually through this process is critical to make sure that important diocesan information reaches congregations’ current leaders in the upcoming year. In addition, the contact information gathered will be published in the Diocesan Directory. A new online form is being used this year to collect congregational leadership information. The Delegate Certification Form is a separate form, in an editable PDF format. These two completed forms are due as soon as possible after each congregation’s annual meeting and no later than *Friday, March 27*. FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).
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- **Is your congregation interested in applying for a diocesan grant this year?** Programs include Congregational Development Grants, Deanery Grants (Sending Serving Grants for matching funds for outreach ministries, and House of Mercy Grants for programs supporting women and children in need), Sustainable Development Grants and Mission Tithe Matching Grants for global mission efforts—and more. Information and applications for diocesan grant programs are available on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/resources/grants-loans, and also are summarized in a brochure available [here](#) to print and share. Additionally, upcoming application deadlines are listed in the “Grants” section of this newsletter. Questions may be directed to the contact people listed for each grant program.

- The Massachusetts Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians sponsors an **annual Absalom Jones service and celebration**, this year taking place on *Sunday, Feb. 9 at 4 p.m.* at St. Cyprian’s Church (1073 Tremont Street) in Roxbury. The preacher will be the Rev. Canon Dr. Sandye Wilson, Chief Operating Officer of St. Augustine’s University in Raleigh, N.C. All are welcome.

Churchwide, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has invited Episcopalians to dedicate offerings collected at observances of the Feast of Absalom Jones in support of St. Augustine’s University and Voorhees College—the two remaining Episcopal historically black colleges and universities. Read more [here](#).

- The diocesan community’s prayers and presence are invited for the **upcoming ordination to the priesthood** of the Rev. Olivia Hamilton on *Friday, Feb. 21, 6 p.m.*, at St. James’s Church (1991 Massachusetts Avenue) in Cambridge.
FOR INFORMATION: Contact the host parish or the Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations (edie@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 514).

- Online registration is now open for **summer camp** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. The Barbara C. Harris Camp offers five one-week camp sessions between *June 28 and July 31*. Churches and previous camp families should watch their mail for the 2020 Barbara C. Harris Camp brochure. For more information and registration, visit www.bchcenter.org/bchcamp.

- B-SAFE partner church leaders—new and returning—are invited to **B-SAFE’s annual partner gathering** on *Sunday, March 1, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill. The gathering is a time to build relationships and plan for the summer ahead; lunch will be provided.

For B-SAFE 2020, St. Stephen’s Youth Programs and 52 Episcopal partner groups will join together to create a learning-filled,

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fun and safe summer for more than 500 youth in Boston's South End (at St. Stephen's Church), Roxbury (at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin), Dorchester (at the Epiphany School) and Mattapan (at the Church of the Holy Spirit).

Due to funding challenges, B-SAFE will not open a site this summer at St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea and will be running a significantly modified program at St. Mary's Church in Dorchester. St. Stephen's Youth Programs is working to accommodate families, youth and teens from those sites at its continuing locations.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: The Rev. Liz Steinhauser, Senior Director of Community Engagement, St. Stephen's Youth Programs, Boston (liz@ststephensbos.org or 617-851-6680).

B-SOUL at B-SAFE: Did you know that there's a chance every summer to share the love of God in Christ with children and teens? You can do this by leading a session of B-SOUL (the time formerly known as "Optional Worship") at a B-SAFE summer camp location. The sessions are about 30 minutes long, and volunteers can sign up for one or many. B-SAFE will provide a plan and resources to make it simple; or, volunteers with something they'd like to try out are welcome to do so.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Emily J. Garcia (families@redeemerchestnuthill.org or 617-566-7679, ext. 130).

CHURCHWIDE:

- Episcopal Church **Lent resources** are available online, including the "Life Transformed—The Way of Love in Lent" video series and curriculum, and more. Find them [here](#).
 - The Joint Standing Committee for Nominations for General Convention is **now accepting nominations for:** members of the Court of Review, Disciplinary Board for Bishops, Executive Council, General Board of Examining Chaplains, and Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop; trustees of the Church Pension Fund and General Theological Seminary; secretary of the the House of Deputies; and treasurer of General Convention. The application and links to position descriptions are available [here](#). The deadline to apply is *March 31, 2020*; elections will be held at the 80th General Convention in Baltimore, Md., *June 30–July 9, 2021*.
 - Churchwide access is now available to a **new online interactive mapping tool** that uses data collected through the Parochial Report. The "Know Your Neighborhood" tool is available on the websites of both the General Convention, [here](#), and Episcopal Church, [here](#). When a parish is selected, a pop-up window will offer brief stats on membership, attendance and income. The user will then have the opportunity to "Explore Trends" and "Explore Neighborhood." Find additional information [here](#).
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Upcoming youth ministry events:

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

- Last call to register for the **High School Retreat**, *Friday-Sunday, Feb. 7-9*, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. The retreat's theme is "Our World, Our Future." Led by the Diocesan Youth Council, the weekend features workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship, lively music and much-needed time away from everyday routines in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Register online [here](#).
- Every three years, young Episcopalians come together for the Episcopal Youth Event, an international gathering for worship, workshops, exploration and fun. The **2020 Episcopal Youth Event (EYE20)** will be held in partnership with Washington National Cathedral and the Diocese of Washington, *July 7-11*. Young people attend as part of their diocesan delegation. Online registration to join the diocesan delegation is available [here](#) and closes on *Monday, Feb. 10*.
- Registration is now open for two Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 20-21* and *April 3-4*. 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 journey. Retreats also provide potential confirmands a chance to meet and ask questions of their bishops. A recruiting flier is available [here](#). Register online [here](#).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- The diocese's Congregational Consultants are sponsoring their annual **Congregational Business Practices Workshop** four times in February and March to give congregational leaders—especially those new to their roles—an exposure to the basics of good business practices in general, and Episcopal Church business practices in particular. These workshops are important for vestry members, treasurers, officers and clergy—anyone involved in the business matters of the congregation. The workshop will be offered on these *four Saturdays, each from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*:
 - *Feb. 22* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston ([register online here](#));
 - *Feb. 29* at St. Mark's Church (10 St. Mark's Road) in Burlington ([register online here](#));
 - *March 14* at St. Peter's Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay ([register online here](#)); and
 - *March 21* at St. Paul's Church (26 Washington Street) in Malden ([register online here](#)).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Feb. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. 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. During this training, participants will gain understanding of church practices and canons, best practices of a home Eucharistic visit and more. Find more details and register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2020 Congregational Development Grants** are now available online [here](#). These funds are intended to support worshipping communities in strengthening community vitality and deepening relationships with God, and to challenge congregations to try new programs that nurture and reimagine congregational life. Congregations intending to apply should submit a letter of intent to jgarrett@diomass.org by *Monday, March 2*. For congregations that submit a letter of intent, the completed application is due on *Friday, May 1*.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

- **Scholarship grants for children of clergy:** Children of clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for scholarship grants for undergraduate degree programs for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applications are due to lsimons@diomass.org by *Friday, May 8*. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by *Friday, June 5*. The Statement of Policy and Procedure, which is the basis for making awards, and the Student Personal and Financial Profile, which all applicants are asked to complete, are available online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gates (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Jan. 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Welcomed new Diocesan Council member Tamara Sobers, appointed by the bishop.

Voted to direct the treasurer and Budget Committee to review the bishops' compensation and to report back to Council with a proposal for the 2021 diocesan budget and subsequent years.

Heard an update that sale of the diocesan property at 40 Prescott Street in Brookline was approved by the Standing Committee,

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which was a contingency for a vote taken by the Diocesan Council in December.

Heard a presentation about the history of deaneries.

Heard a report about the 2019 Diocesan Convention and a preview of the 2020 Diocesan Convention.

Heard a presentation about the diocesan budget process timeline and diocesan income trends.

Participated in brainstorming about diocesan income sources.

Voted to accept the Diocesan Council Executive Committee slate: Rob Kelleher, the Rev. Phil LaBelle, Betsy Ridge Madsen, the Rev. Deborah Phillips and Dave Sullivan.

Voted to accept the secretary, Sister Kristina Frances, SSM, and treasurer, Tom Moore III, as ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

Heard a report that the Rev. Rachel Wildman has been appointed as the assistant secretary of Diocesan Convention.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 406.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Stephen T. Ayres retired as vicar of Christ Church (Old North) in Boston at the end of December 2019.

The Rev. Harry Birkenhead has retired as rector of the Church of the Holy Nativity in South Weymouth.

The Rev. Rebecca Blair completed her time as bridge priest at St. John's Church in Saugus in January and has begun as interim priest at Trinity Church in Topsfield.

The Rev. Bill Bradbury retired as rector of All Saints' Church in Chelmsford on Jan. 26.

The Rev. Brad Hultman is serving as interim priest at the Church of the Holy Nativity in South Weymouth.

The Rev. Melissa Remington is serving as supply priest at St. John's Church in Saugus.

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BOSTON, Christ Church (Old North)

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, St. Paul's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher

cgallagher@diomass.org

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*Continued from page 7***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)**None at this time.***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:***Contact the regional canon to be considered.*BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *half-time*MEDWAY, Christ Church *one-third-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.**None at this time.*

Northern and Western Region
 Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:***None at this time.***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd *full-time*MELROSE, Trinity Church *three-quarters-time redeveloper*WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany *full-time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

LYNN, St. Stephen's Church

SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:*Contact the regional canon to be considered.*HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*MALDEN, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church *half-time*SAUGUS, St. John's Church *half-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.**None at this time.**Continued on page 9*

*Continued from page 8***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *full-time*
 ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church *half-time*
 FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*
 MARION, St. Gabriel's Church *full-time*

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

QUINCY, Parish of St. Chrysostom *full-time*
 SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour *two-thirds time*
 WHITMAN, All Saints' Church *half-time*

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*
 TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church *full-time*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

HARWICH PORT, Christ Church
 NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.
None at this time.

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.
None at this time.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the March 4 issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.