

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of **The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts** 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / <u>www.diomass.org</u> 617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

<u>Events Calendar</u>

Job Postings

Prepare for Diocesan Convention at online forums this month

Visit <u>www.diomass.org/</u> <u>diocesan-convention-2020</u> for registration, materials & updates.

Diocesan community invited to join online for election eve prayer vigil

Council seeks data from congregations on pandemic's financial impact

New "Discerning My Path" program launches in January Registration is open, <u>here</u>, until Oct. 30 for Diocesan Convention, to take place this year online on *Saturday, Nov.* 7. Details and materials have been e-mailed to delegates and clergy, and are also available on the registration portal and on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020.

A series of pre-convention forums is underway online via Zoom this month for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention. All are welcome; clergy and delegates are especially encouraged to participate. Upcoming forums (from 7 to 8:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted) take place on:

- Wednesday, Oct. 7: Taunton River and South Shore deaneries;
- Thursday, Oct. 8: Charles River and Alewife deaneries;
- Friday, Oct. 9, 2-3:30 p.m.: Daytime forum option
- Tuesday, Oct. 13: Neponset River and Boston Harbor deaneries;
- Wednesday, Oct. 14: Mystic Valley and North Shore deaneries;

 Thursday, Oct. 15: Merrimack Valley and Concord River deaneries Register <u>here</u> to receive a link to join one or more of the forums. FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston is coordinating an online prayer vigil on *Monday*, *Nov. 2, at 7 p.m.*, in collaboration with any and all other congregations in the diocese that would like to join together to pray for our nation, for safe and fair elections, and for all candidates and voters. Find vigil details at <u>www.diomass.</u> <u>org/2020-election-eve-prayer-vigil</u>. Find Episcopal Church election season resource materials <u>here</u>.

Recognizing that many congregations have been affected financially over recent months, the Diocesan Council has distributed an online Pandemic Financial Impact Report form for every congregation to complete and submit as soon as possible. The data collected will be used to help assess the needs incurred by congregations because of the pandemic. Find the Pandemic Financial Impact Report form <u>here</u>.

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

"Discerning My Path" is a new discernment opportunity launching in January 2021 for anyone yearning for a deeper relationship with God and wondering about what they have to offer the world and how to listen deeply enough to hear God's desire.

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The Diocese of Massachusetts joins other New England dioceses in Province I in partnering with Bexley-Seabury Seminary to offer this six-month lay discernment program. In addition to monthly online meetings in small groups, participants will engage with spiritual reading, videos and articles on discernment, spiritual practices and the ministry of the baptized. Cost is \$200; financial assistance is available upon request.

Three online informational meetings have been scheduled for those who would like to learn more: *Monday, Oct. 19, 7-8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24, 9-10 a.m.; and Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7-8 p.m.*

E-mail Martha Gardner (as below) for Zoom information. She invites anyone in the Diocese of Massachusetts who would like to learn more or who is interested in registering for the program to contact her. Registration for the six-month program opens Nov. 1.

A promotional graphic is available <u>here</u> to help congregations share word of this opportunity in newsletters and social media. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (<u>mgardner@diomass.org</u> or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

NOTES:

• The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened through the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries is hosting an **online workshop on immigration and faith-based organizations** on *Saturday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m.*. Guest speaker will be John McCarthy of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The workshop will address basic immigration matters; ways to go through the process of seeking legal status; and how faith-based organizations can help both USCIS and immigrants. The event is free, but pre-registration to receive the Zoom link is required. Register online <u>here</u>.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (<u>jbntagengwa@</u> <u>diomass.org</u> or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

• Congregational Consultants to host series of Zoom calls on the practical aspects of congregational leadership: The Congregational Consultants are planning a series of monthly Zoom calls, to include topics of interest to vestries and particularly to wardens and treasurers. Planned topics include the Parochial Report, investment options, budgeting, and working together as a vestry team.

The first session will focus on clergy compensation, including the calculation of TCC minimums by use of a custom spreadsheet that is available on the diocesan web site, <u>here</u>. Bob Malone, a member of the diocesan Compensation and Benefits Committee, will lead this session on *Wednesday*, *Oct. 28 at 9 a.m.* Participation is particularly recommended for treasurers and those preparing 2021 budgets for congregations. Register <u>here</u> to receive the meeting Zoom link. The session will be recorded for later access.

• Stewardship and planned giving resources: The Diocese of Massachusetts provides an annual membership for all of its worshiping communities to The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)—a helpful resource for congregations of all sizes for webinars on various topics, workshops and customizable stewardship templates. A virtual workshop "Planned Giving Basics, Legacy Societies and Endowments" is coming up on Oct. 24. Register on the TENS site. There is no cost. Access information for 2020 is: www.tens.org Username: 1PETER Password: FOUR:10 FOR INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development (baustinspooner@diomass.org or 617-482- 4826, ext. 515).

• Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center Open Guest Weekends: The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will continue offering lodging in a vacationrental format for families, couples and individuals through October weekends. Guests are in charge of their own "vacation" and are able to enjoy hiking, boating, fishing, biking, yard games and general relaxation during the peak fall foliage season in New England. Visit www.bchcenter.org for more information on Open Guest Weekends.

• The annual **Ministry Discernment Conference** hosted by the Commission on Ministry will be held this year as a videoconference on *Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.* The conference provides an in-depth look at the 2021 edition of the Ministry Discernment Handbook, and gives potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts as they consider whether their call is to ordained ministry or committed lay ministry.

Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2021 is required to attend the conference, along with a sponsoring priest and at least one member of the Parish Discernment Committee. Discernment committees, one member of which must be a member of the vestry, are appointed by the priest of the sponsoring congregation and should be named before the conference so that as many members as wish to may attend. Inquirers are also encouraged to bring their spouses or partners to the conference. Online registration will open Dec. 1. FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations (edie@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 514).

CHURCHWIDE:

• Bishop Carol J. Gallagher, who serves as regional canon for the Central Region of the Diocese of Massachusetts, will be the celebrant during a **pre-recorded worship service for celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day**, produced by the Diocese of Maine. The service will be available *Sunday*, *Oct. 11* on the Diocese of Maine's <u>YouTube</u> channel and <u>Facebook</u> page.

• Emmanuel Church in Boston is presenting **"A Saint for All Saints: A Conversation About the Life and Legacy of The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray"** on *Sunday, Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.*, online via Zoom. Pauli Murray (1910-1985), activist, lawyer, pioneer in civil rights and women's rights law, professor, poet and writer, was the first African-American woman to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church (1977). Since 2018, the Episcopal Church has commemorated her on July 1. Emmanuel Church was her sponsoring congregation for ordination to the priesthood.

Speakers at the online event include Melissa Wood Bartholomew, JD, Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging at Harvard Divinity School; the Very Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary; and the Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge, Rector of St. Aidan's Church in San Francisco. The conversation will be moderated by the Rev. Dr. Yolanda Rolle, Episcopal-Anglican Chaplain at Howard University, who, like Murray, was sponsored for ordination by Emmanuel Church. After the panel, there will be an opportunity for conversation in small groups facilitated by panelists.

The event is free and open to the public; advance registration is required, <u>here</u>. Find more information at <u>https://emmanuelbos-ton.org/a-saint-for-all-saints</u>.

• A seven-week **online series on Global Mission Engagement** is underway on *Tuesday evenings*, 6:30-8 p.m. through Dec. 1, offered by the Companions in Mission Ministry Network of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and based on the book *Questing: A Way* of Love in Global Mission. Participants will learn, reflect and converse with global mission leaders across the church. The Nov. 17 session, "Go," will be led by Bishop Josiah Fearon, Anglican Communion Secretary General, and Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Find more details <u>here</u>; questions may be directed to the Rev. Amjad Samuel at <u>asamuel@stpaulsct.org</u>.

• The Task Force to Develop Model Anti-Sexual Harassment Policies & Safe Church Training is looking for **Episcopalians inter**ested in participating in listening groups related to the development of new and updated Safe Church training materials and approaches. The purpose of the listening sessions is to ensure that the diversity of voices within the church is represented in the topics, training methods and personal stories in each training area. To achieve this, the task force invites those interested in participating to complete a demographic survey. The data provided will be used to set up representative listening groups. The typical listening session will be 45-60 minutes in length, conducted online via Zoom and include 15-20 people.

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The survey is available in English <u>here</u>, in Spanish <u>here</u> and in French <u>here</u>. Survey responses are due by Oct. 18. Questions may be directed to <u>SafeChurchTaskforce2020@gmail.com</u> or Eric Travis, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan (313-833-4418).

Participants from the Diocese of Massachusetts are invited to contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, which will be helpful to this work locally (<u>mgardner@diomass.org</u> or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

• Registration is open until Oct. 15 for the **New Community 2020 Virtual Conference**, hosted by the Episcopal Church Department of Ethnic Ministries and taking place *Oct. 30-31*. This gathering of Asian, Black, Latino/Hispanic and Indigenous clergy and lay leaders provides a safe place to explore mission in ethnic ministries, share resources and best practices, hopes and dreams, needs and concerns, gifts and ministries, suffering and joy. The conference will include plenary sessions and workshops addressing current issues as well as ethnic-specific meetings and interethnic and crosscultural conversations. Find more information and registration, in English and Spanish, <u>here</u>.

• Recordings of the **"Becoming Beloved Community NOW" online gatherings** held in July are now available for viewing <u>here</u>.

Convened by the Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation, the three gatherings focused on themes of truth, justice and healing, and featured presentations and panels, along with time for practitioners and leaders to meet and share with one another. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings offered prayer and reflections throughout the sessions.

Learn more about the "Becoming Beloved Community" longterm commitment to racial healing, justice and reconciliation, along with supporting resources, at <u>www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-</u> <u>community</u>. Resources for learning, prayer and action in response to racist violence are gathered at <u>https://episcopalchurch.org/</u> <u>responding-to-racist-violence</u>.

• Episcopal institutions can now apply for the **next round of the Episcopal Evangelism Grants Program**, designed to fund local and regional evangelism efforts. The application deadline is *Nov. 15.* The new grant cycle will focus on projects that explore new methods of evangelism during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant program, which began in 2017 as a result of the 2015 General Convention's increased investment in evangelism, awards up to \$2,000 for an individual congregation and up to \$8,000 for multichurch, diocesan and regional collaborations. The grant application, criteria and additional information are available <u>here</u>. *FOR INFORMATION: Ann Hercules, Associate for Ministries Beyond The Episcopal Church (ahercules@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6321).*

Youth and Young Adult Ministries:

Questions may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith at <u>hmsmith@diomass.org</u> or 617/482-4826, ext. 215 • Join with the Life Together community on *Saturday, Oct. 24,* from 5 to 6:15 p.m., for **"Write the Vision," an online celebration with Life Together** fellows, alumni, staff and program partners. There will be time to connect with friends and a short program celebrating the community's 20th anniversary as it paves the way for its future vision. This event is the culmination of a collaborative fundraising campaign among Life Together staff, fellows and community supporters to raise \$65,000 in 2020. RSVP for this online gathering here, and learn more about the Life Together young adult fellows program here.

• Lay vocation discernment small groups for young adults:

"Discernment"—attending to God's will in our lives and life decisions—is a practice that should be at the heart of every Christian's experience. Following up on the Oct. 3 online discernment retreat, "Learning to Walk with God in the World," the Young Adult Advisory Committee is currently forming small groups to practice discernment under the direction of a peer facilitator. These discernment groups will meet at least six times between November 2020 and May 2021, using specific methods or practices of their choosing. Some space in these groups is available for young adults (ages 18-39) who did not attend the Oct. 3 retreat.

This program aims to provide young adults who are members of or feel connected to the Episcopal Church with a framework to engage with some of life's most pressing questions within the context of community. Developing practices of listening for the Holy Spirit in their lives, attending to God's will in daily decisions and actions, and attuning to their individual vocations can be particularly transformative for young adults in this time of uncertainty.

For more information or to register interest in participating, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith, Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, by Oct. 15 (<u>hmsmith@diomass.org</u>).

• Young Adult Network Organizers sought: Following up on an initial canvass done by the 20s and 30s Task Force in 2019, several network organizers are sought (to be contracted at an hourly rate) to assist the Young Adult Advisory Committee in its efforts to develop the Young Adult Network. The network is made up of Episcopalians in their 20s and 30s as well as those who minister with them in the Diocese of Massachusetts. The network aims to foster connections among young adults and those who minister to them in organized settings, including parish-based groups, college chaplaincies and the Life Together Episcopal Service Corps program. The network engages both individuals involved in active young adult ministries as well as young adults who are not involved in such ministries but who seek more connection in an Episcopal context with their peers. The organizers will help the committee find, engage and learn from these individuals and groups.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (<u>hmsmith@diomass.org</u> or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).

• **Applications for the new Diocesan Youth Council (DYC):** The DYC is being restructured this year, with several teams devoted to designated responsibilities and commitments, outlined <u>here</u>. Please help recruit young people ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry at the diocesan level. The DYC application is available <u>here</u> and accepted on a rolling basis, with a planned first meeting, online, on Oct. 17.

DYC seats on Diocesan Council open: Two members of the Diocesan Youth Council sit as full voting members of Diocesan Council. Both of those positions are currently open. Young people interested in being involved in governance at the diocesan level are encouraged to apply to the DYC's Church Governance Team. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Diocesan Youth Missioner (hmsmith@diomass.org* or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).

• Online youthworker and children's formation gatherings continue: Beginning in October, youth workers can join a webinar-style call hosted by the Youth Ministry Network Council. The calls will be held on the first Tuesday of every month, and will be a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with youth workers from across the Episcopal Church. The link to the call, as well as the topic of the webinar, will be circulated via the <u>Diomass Christian Formation Network Facebook group</u> and in the diocesan Youth Ministry Newsletter.

The ongoing online Diocese of Massachusetts youth worker gatherings will be held on the third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting will be *Thursday, Oct. 15.* To suggest topics for youth ministry sessions, or to volunteer to demonstrate a game or activity or lead a discussion, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at <u>hmsmith@diomass.org</u>.

Online gatherings for children's formation colleagues are taking place every other week until Nov. 5. Next gatherings are scheduled for Oct. 8 and 22 and Nov. 5. Direct questions and suggestions for the children's formation sessions to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at <u>mgardner@diomass.org</u>. Visit <u>www.diomassyouth.org/events</u> for meeting links.

• **Our World, Our Future:** This online outreach ministry campaign continues to help youth groups, individual young people and others to support outreach efforts according to their abilities and interests, all while maintaining recommended physical distancing protocols. The online catalog includes service opportunities in four ministry areas: feeding and gifting; companioning; fundraising; and advocacy. For more information and additional tools to help implement this campaign in congregations and at home, visit the <u>"Our World, Our Future" webpage</u>.

GRANTS & LOANS:

• **"Wicked Good Idea" Microgrants** continue to be available as an invitation to congregations, networks and organizations in the diocese to try something new in their ministry context in support of the diocesan <u>mission strategy</u>. The grants are a way to put some seed-money support behind ideas for how to do the work of Christ in new and creative ways. While ideas of church have shifted somewhat in the current time, mission work continues, and this grant intiative, new this year, encourages everyone to think creatively about how to do that.

A total of \$20,000 is available for grants in 2020. Applications are received on a rolling basis for individual grants of \$500 to \$2,000. Find more information and the online application <u>here</u>. Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at <u>missionstrategy@diomass.org</u>.

• The fall round of **global mission grants** is coming up. Application deadlines are *Nov. 15* for Sustainable Development Grants, and *Dec. 15* for Mission Tithe Relationship Grants. Find application information <u>here</u>.

On *Thursday, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m.*, Holly Carter of the Global Mission Commission grants committee will offer an online workshop via Zoom on best practices for writing an application for the Sustainable Development Grants. This workshop is encouraged for any congregations thinking about applying for these grants. Find Zoom link information <u>here</u>.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Holly Hartman (<u>hhartman@diomass.</u> org) or The Rev. Marilyn McMillan (<u>mmcmillan@diomass.org</u>).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Sept. 12 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to endorse the proposed 2021 budget narrative and summary.

Approved a timeline for the 2021 pandemic relief process.

Heard an update about the status of the Paycheck Protection Program.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.

Heard an update about Diocesan Convention planning.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m., via Zoom.

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

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher <u>cgallagher@diomass.org</u>

CLERGY CHANGES:

- The Rev. John Beach has been appointed priest in charge at St. John's Church in Saugus.
- The Rev. Jennifer Beal has been appointed priest in charge at St. Anne's Church in North Billerica.
- The Rev. Dr. Matthew Cadwell will complete his ministry as rector of Emmanuel Church Wakefield on Nov. 1, and begin as vicar in charge at Christ Church (Old North) in Boston on Nov. 16.
- The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt has concluded her ministry at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Fall River.
- The Rev. Angel Marrero-Ayala has been appointed chaplain to the Esperanza Academy in Lawrence.
- The Rev. Laurie Rofinot has begun as interim priest at the Church of the Holy Spirit in South Weymouth.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-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. MEDWAY, Christ Church *part-time* NEWTON HIGHLANDS, St. Paul's Parish

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.

None at this time.

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:

WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd: Assistant Rector

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard <u>mhubbard@diomass.org</u>

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY: TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.) None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered. HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church quarter-time METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church quarter-time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered. WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

Southern Region

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

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

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY: None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.) BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church half-time BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church half-time SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour two-thirds time WHITMAN, All Saints' Church half-time

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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 Nov. 4 issue is **Wednesday**, **Oct. 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to <u>tjs@diomass.org</u>.