



Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
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[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

**Diocesan Convention
embraces brave change
online on Nov. 7**

Visit [www.diomass.org/
diocesan-convention-2020](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020) for
links & materials.

The annual Diocesan Convention takes place online on *Saturday, Nov. 7*. Details and materials have been e-mailed to delegates and clergy, and are also available on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020. Pre-registered voting members and participants will take part in the proceedings via Zoom. Those who would like to observe are invited to tune into the planned livestream via the diocesan YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/ediomass.

The diocesan Liturgy and Music Commission is preparing resources for use in congregations on *Sunday, Nov. 8*, including a recorded greeting from Bishop Alan M. Gates; audio and video recordings of hymns, canticles, psalms and anthems provided by musicians and choirs of the diocese; a recorded sermon and blessing from Bishop Gayle E. Harris; and litanies for the season. Visit the [convention webpage](#) for the link to these worship resources. *FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration* (csmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

**Diocesan community
invited to join online for
post-Election Day prayer**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston is coordinating post-Election Day online prayer services, *each evening Nov. 4-6 at 7 p.m.* All are welcome. Visit www.diomass.org/election-prayer-vigil for the Zoom link. Congregations partnering with the cathedral church to make this possible are the MANNA Community at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, All Saints Parish in Brookline, Christ Church and Iglesia de San Juan in Hyde Park, Trinity Church in Marshfield and Christ Church in Needham, as well as the diocesan Young Adult Advisory Committee.

**Churches notified of
filing deadline related to
Boy Scouts bankruptcy**

Ongoing bankruptcy proceedings relating to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) may have an impact on congregations which have had connections to the BSA. The bankruptcy results from the numerous claims of sexual abuse against the BSA. Should claims be brought at some future time against congregations which had some connection to the BSA, the defenses and insurance coverage for such claims may be foreclosed unless congregations file the necessary notice in the bankruptcy proceeding by Nov. 16.

Each congregation is asked to undertake an urgent effort to determine what relationship, if any, it has had with the BSA. At present, there are not any known claims against the BSA which relate to congregations of this diocese. Nevertheless, it is strongly recommended that every congregation which has had a relationship with the BSA file the notice.

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Any congregation which has or has had any relationship with the BSA should report that relationship to Canon to the Ordinary Bill Parnell (bparnell@diomass.org) as soon as possible but **not later than Thursday, Nov. 12** so that assistance can be provided with filing the necessary notice.

Council seeks data from congregations on pandemic's financial impact

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 [here](#).

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

Priesthood ordination services scheduled

The diocesan community's prayers are invited for these upcoming ordinations to the priesthood:

- The Rev. Luke Ditewig, SSJE on *Saturday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.*, Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge;
- The Rev. Lauren Lukason on *Thursday, Dec. 17 (time to be announced)*, St. Paul's Church, Brookline;
- The Rev. Tammy Hobbs-Miracky on *Saturday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m.*, All Saints Parish, Brookline; and
- The Rev. Melissa Howell on *Wednesday, Jan. 6 (time to be announced)*, Grace Church, New Bedford.

Please contact each hosting congregation or community directly about service details, as gathering and online arrangements will be different for each.

NOTES:

- **“Lament and Live Together”:** New England church leaders, including the bishops of the Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses, have signed on to an Oct. 27 letter issued by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, calling for communal lament and a focus on mental health, as the challenges of ministry during a time of pandemic continue. Find the full letter [here](#).

- **Upcoming Immigration and Multicultural Ministries events:**

All are invited to join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened through the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries for an **online advocacy and letter-writing event** on *Saturday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m.* The event is free, but pre-registration ([here](#)) is required. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, at jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400.

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Neighbor to Neighbor—Why Welcoming the Unwelcome is Gospel Living: The diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries and Episcopal City Mission invite congregations to consider a new way to support asylum seekers in their own local context, with the launching of Neighbor to Neighbor.

Neighbor to Neighbor is a network designed to connect asylum seekers with Episcopal congregations in local communities across the U.S. Led by Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Rev. Cristina Rathbone, Neighbor to Neighbor seeks to provide a way for Episcopalians to accompany, assist and support asylum seekers who live close to them, and is committed to offering congregational groups training and support as their relationships with these newest neighbors develop and grow. To learn more, come to an **online Neighbor to Neighbor learning event** on *Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6-7:30 p.m.* To register for the event, click [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Cristina Rathbone (rathbonecristina@gmail.com).

- “Discerning My Path” is a **new lay 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.

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.

An **online informational meeting** for those who would like to learn more takes place on *Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7-8 p.m.*

E-mail Martha Gardner (as below) for Zoom information.

FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- Clergy who are due to renew their Safe Church training this year and who were unable to attend the **two-part Clergy Professional Development Days** offered earlier this summer and fall, are encouraged to attend online **make-up sessions** consisting of a combination of recorded and live material being offered via Zoom:
 - Part II Make-up Session: *Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:15-7 p.m.* ([register online here](#)).
 - Part I Make-up Session: *Tuesday, Nov. 24, 5:15-7 p.m.* ([register online here](#)).

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the session.

FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **Congregational Consultants to host series of Zoom calls on the practical aspects of congregational leadership:** These will include topics of interest to vestries and particularly to wardens and treasurers. The upcoming session will focus on “What to Do in December and January” in terms of year-end closing matters, and will be offered twice, on *Tuesday, Dec. 1* ([register online here](#)) and again on *Saturday, Dec. 5* ([register online here](#)) *each session from 9 to 10 a.m.*

Topics will include: clergy housing allowances; retention of an auditor; review of the chart of accounts and the budget format; year-end allocation of particular transactions; year-end reconciliation; pre-paid pledges; adjustments needed to produce an accurate balance sheet; and preparation of the financial statements to be presented at the annual meeting.

The December sessions will be led by Terry Robinson, congregational consultant, parish auditor and principal author of the [Treasurers' Handbook](#) available on the diocesan website. The sessions will be recorded for later access.

- **“Space for Jesus” Online Advent Quiet Day:** The dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts are co-sponsoring an online Advent Quiet Day on *Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*, led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ.

During this Advent Quiet Day, participants will be invited to step away from daily tasks and concerns in order to listen with full attention to the Spirit’s movement within. The time will include presentations and guided meditations, with options for solitary reflection (indoors or out) or small group conversation.

This online retreat is open to all, free of charge. Online registration will be posted [here](#) soon.

FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- Online registration opens Dec. 1 for the annual **Ministry Discernment Conference** hosted by the Commission on Ministry, which will be held as a videoconference on *Saturday, Feb. 6, 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. Inquirers are also encouraged to bring their spouses or partners to the conference.

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

Youth and Young Adult Ministries:

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

- **Online youthworker and children's formation gatherings continue:** The ongoing online Diocese of Massachusetts youth worker gatherings are held on the *third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m.* The next meeting will be *Thursday, Nov. 19.* 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 hmsmith@diomass.org.

Online **gatherings for children's formation colleagues** are taking place on a twice-monthly basis. Next gatherings are scheduled at *3:30 p.m. on Nov. 5 and 12, and Dec. 3 and 10.* Direct questions and suggestions for the children's formation sessions to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org. Visit www.diomassyouth.org/events for meeting links.

Youth workers are invited to join a webinar-style call hosted by the **Youth Ministry Network Council**— a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with youth workers churchwide. The calls are held on the *first Tuesday of every month* (except November's call, which will be held on *Nov. 10*, due to Election Day). The link and topics for the monthly call will be circulated via the [Diomass Christian Formation Network Facebook group](#) and in the diocesan Youth Ministry Newsletter. Sign up to receive Episcopal Church Youth Ministry Network event announcements [here](#).

- **Youth Ministry Network Retreat:** Youth ministers, mark your calendars for the online Episcopal Youth Ministry Network Retreat, *Dec. 4 and 5.* There will be sessions throughout the two days to accommodate a variety of schedules. Details will be forthcoming, but plan to have a great time connecting, sharing wisdom, learning and praying with youth workers from across the Episcopal Church.

- **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 ["Our World, Our Future" webpage](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Actions from the Oct. 22 Diocesan Council meeting will be reported in the December issue.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

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

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Episcopal institutions can 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 [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Ann Hercules, Associate for Ministries Beyond The Episcopal Church (ahercules@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6321).

- **“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 [mission strategy](#). 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 initiative, 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 [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at missionstrategy@diomass.org.

- The fall round of **global mission grants** is underway. Application deadlines are *Nov. 15* for Sustainable Development Grants, and *Dec. 15* for Mission Tithe Relationship Grants. Find application information [here](#).

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

- **Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants:** The application form and program information for 2021 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants are available online [here](#). Applications are due by *Monday, Dec. 14, 2020*, for sabbaticals in 2021; award decisions will be announced by *Jan. 15*. Please submit applications to David Ames, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Suffragan, by e-mail at dames@diomass.org or by mail to him at: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas (theakl@mit.edu) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole (sjrobbinscole@gmail.com), Sabbatical Grants Committee.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Bill Locke has begun as bridge priest at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Fall River.

The Rev. Nicholas Meyers, currently serving in the Diocese of Colorado, has been called as rector of the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester, beginning in mid-January.

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
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

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.

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*Continued from page 7***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 deadlines for the December and January issues are earlier than usual because of the holidays: **Wednesday, Nov. 18** for the December issue and **Wednesday, Dec. 16** for the January issue. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.