



**Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021**

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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### **Registration now open for Diocesan Convention, Nov. 12-13**

*Resolutions, nominations &  
reports are due by Sept. 10*

Visit [www.diomass.org/  
diocesan-convention-2021](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021) for  
forms, links and updates.

Online registration is now open, [here](#), for Diocesan Convention, to be held *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13*, under the theme “Members One of Another.” Friday plenary and break-out sessions, worship and the evening keynote program will be offered virtually and are open to everyone. Find a publicity flier [here](#), and spread the word.

The **submission deadline** for all proposed resolutions, nominations and required reports is *Friday, Sept. 10 by 5 p.m.* Find open positions to be filled by election [here](#) and the nomination form [here](#). Click [here](#) for the online resolutions submission form; resolution-writing guidelines are available [here](#).

Again this year there will be online opportunities for **discussing and refining proposed resolutions** prior to the convention, with an open comment period *Sept. 20-27* and two Zoom meetings for discussion of resolutions, on *Tuesday, Sept. 21* and *Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.*

In addition, the regular series of **pre-convention forums** for clergy and delegates will be held online via Zoom in October for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention. Forums will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on *Monday, Oct. 18* (Central Region); *Tuesday, Oct. 19* (Northern and Western Region); and *Thursday, Oct. 28* (Southern Region). A day-time forum will also be offered on *Friday, Oct. 29, 2-3:30 p.m.*

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

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### **“Hope Beyond the Heat”: Season of Creation re- sources available online**

The Season of Creation, *Sept. 1-Oct. 4*, is an opportunity to focus worship, prayer, educational events and actions on God’s extraordinary creation and the climate crisis threatening all life on our planet. Join for **season-opening online prayer Wednesday, Sept. 1 at noon** [here](#). A [reflection by Bishop Gayle E. Harris](#) and resources offered by the Creation Care Justice Network for congregations and clergy for the season and its theme “Hope Beyond the Heat” are posted at [www.diomass.org/creation-care](http://www.diomass.org/creation-care). Additionally, see page 4 of this newsletter for details on a climate crisis preaching workshop on *Sept. 16* and an online retreat, open to all, on *Oct. 2*.

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### **Cathedral gathers com- munity for prayer on eve of 9/11 anniversary**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul invites everyone to come together for Compline via Zoom at 7 p.m. on *Friday, Sept. 10*, the eve of the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The Rev. Stephen Harding, Rector of Grace Church in Vineyard Haven, who served as a chaplain at Ground Zero and with the NYFD, will give a homily, and special prayers and music will be offered. Register for the Zoom link [here](#).

### **Oct. 12 Clergy Day to focus on “The Church Cracked Open”**

Discounted copies of *The Church Cracked Open* may be purchased [here](#) using the promo code CHURCH20. Read the book’s introduction [here](#).

Registration is now open, [here](#), for the annual diocesan Clergy Day on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 4-8 p.m.* Keynote speaker the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers will draw from her new book, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community*, and from churchwide efforts toward truth-telling and discipleship, in order to help equip the gathering as a community of leaders and learners whose churches and communities have been “cracked open” by pandemic, racial reckoning, economic suffering and generations-long decline.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will be the main event site; proceedings will be broadcast to two additional in-person satellite sites, St. Mary’s Church in Barnstable and Christ Church in Andover. The fee to attend an in-person gathering is \$20 per person and includes dinner. Clergy are invited to attend at the location of their choosing.

A livestream of the event will be available for those clergy who are not able to join in person at one of the three locations. There is no fee to attend virtually, and once registered as such, participants will receive information about how to access the livestream online.

If evolving COVID-19 metrics and protocols warrant, the event will convert to an all-virtual format.

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

### **“Cracked Open? Now What?” online session for the laity: Oct. 12 at noon**

The laity of the diocese will have an opportunity to gather online for “Cracked Open? Now What?”—a conversation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, via Zoom, on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 12-1:15 p.m.*, ahead of her Clergy Day presentation later in the day (see above).

As the temptation to get “back to normal” beckons in this season of regathering and reopening, how can communities be helped to embrace disruption, dismantle white supremacy and empire, fall in love with Jesus and embody the dream of God? Online registration is open, [here](#), for joining this important conversation.

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

### **Multicultural Gratitude Celebration to honor UTO grant recipients**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will host a Multicultural Celebration of Gratitude on *Saturday, Oct. 16 from 4 to 7 p.m.* Join with friends both near and far to celebrate God’s gift of gratitude through food, music, worship, prayers and story sharing. Three United Thank Offering (UTO) grant recipients will be honored: ProGente Connections in Framingham, St. Stephen’s Youth Programs, Boston and the MANNA community at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Register [here](#). Event proceeds will be donated to the UTO to be redistributed as part of next year’s grant awards.

This event is currently designed to offer both in-person attendance and online streaming access. The format will be updated if warranted by evolving COVID-19 metrics and protocols.

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

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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with Church World Service to provide **post-earthquake assistance in Pestel, Haiti**. The program will include medical care, shelter, clean water, hygiene kits and educational services. Read more [here](#). Episcopal Relief & Development continues to partner with local organizations such as Church World Service, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and others to respond to the devastating Aug. 14 earthquake. Donations to its [Haiti Fund](#) support this work.

Find Bishop Gayle E. Harris's Aug. 24 message on Haiti and Afghanistan response, prayers from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry and links for more information [here](#).

- **Fourth Annual Border & Migration Ministry Summit:** A virtual summit for those engaged or interested in migration ministries will be held Oct. 21-23, hosted by Episcopal Migration Ministries in partnership with the Diocese of West Texas. Early-bird registration ends Sept. 11.

Attendees can participate in workshops in three tracks: refugee resettlement; asylum and border ministries; and accompaniment. During the summit, attendees will gather to learn from experts and reflect on migration topics through the lens of each track.

Learn more [here](#) and register [here](#). Financial assistance is available; contact Allison Duvall at [aduvall@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:aduvall@episcopalchurch.org).

- In June, **draft translations of The Book of Common Prayer** were released in Spanish and French, with Haitian Creole to follow. **Feedback is sought from native speakers by Oct. 15.**

The new translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, directed by the church's General Convention in 2018 through [resolution A070](#), are online for review in Spanish and French, with accompanying survey questionnaires in each language at: <https://www.generalconvention.org/bcp-translation>.

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**NOTES:**

- **NAVE Voices**, 21 singers from nine states, directed by Dr. Bonnie Sneed, will be in residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston from Sept. 17-19, and, with the Cathedral Schola, will sing choral music spanning five centuries during the morning service on *Sunday, Sept. 19 beginning at 9:45 a.m.* *FOR INFORMATION:* Louise Munding, Cathedral Church of St. Paul ([lmunding@diomass.org](mailto:lmunding@diomass.org)).

- Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, organized through the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, welcome all to join them for a celebration of the traditional **August Moon Festival**, on *Sunday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m.*, via Zoom. All are welcome; register [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION:* The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

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- The final sessions in the current series of **Clergy Professional Development Days** will be offered in September. Part I focuses on the topic “Antagonistic People: Dealing with Bullies in the Church” and takes place on *Friday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* Part II comprises the Safe Church review for Diocese of Massachusetts clergy due for a refresher and takes place on *Friday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* Find more details and registration links [here](#).

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

- **“Climate Crisis Preaching: A Conversation with Jim Antal and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas”**: On *Thursday, Sept. 16, 10-11 a.m.*, preachers are invited to join for an informal hour-long Zoom conversation with two religious climate leaders who between them have preached on climate change more than 500 times. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion. Register and find more information [here](#).

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

- The monthly online **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders** resumes this month. Interim diocesan CFO Cynthia Hallenbeck invites clergy, wardens and treasurers to gather with her for this regular opportunity to share information on finance-related matters. The forum will be offered on the *fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.*, with next sessions on *Sept. 28 and Oct. 26*. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link.

*FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO ([challenbeck@diomass.org](mailto:challenbeck@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).*

- **“Ecological Conversion: Falling in Love with Earth”**: This online retreat led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas on *Saturday, Oct. 2, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, is sponsored by both Massachusetts dioceses and is open to all at no charge. The retreat is an opportunity to consider next steps in eco-conversion and how God wants to meet us through the natural world. Find details and register [here](#).

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

- Again during the new program year, the diocesan Congregational Consultants will be presenting a series of **Zoom seminars on the practical aspects of congregational leadership**:

- *Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7-8 p.m.*, **“Pandemic Perseverance”**: The regional canons will host this session, taking time and creating space for congregational leaders to share how they are feeling, what challenges congregations are experiencing and wisdom gained. The majority of this session will be in small break-out room conversations, and the evening will close with Compline. Register [here](#).

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- **“Congregational Budgets”:** What is a budget and what is it used for? How does leadership construct and review its budget in these uncertain times? This session is recommended particularly for treasurers and finance/budget committee members, as well as vestry members reviewing and approving budgets. The seminar will be led by Chris Meyer, coordinator of the diocesan Congregational Consultants, and will be offered twice: *Saturday, Oct. 16, 9-10 a.m.* (register [here](#)) and *Tuesday, Oct. 19, 9-10 a.m.* (register [here](#)).

- *Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-noon*, **“Inter-Congregational Collaborations”:** Considering collaboration with another congregation, but not sure where to begin? The regional canons are hosting this opportunity to meet others engaged in various kinds of collaboration (sharing clergy, sharing outreach ministry, sharing formation and worship) and hear their experience of beginning, working through challenges and enjoying the fruit of collaboration. There will be panelist presentations, time for Q&A and break-out room conversations. Register [here](#).

Sessions will be recorded and available for playback [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator ([chris@centrestent.com](mailto:chris@centrestent.com)).

- The Young Adult Advisory Committee, Life Together and campus ministries in the Diocese of Massachusetts, along with the Young Adult Network of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, are **gathering young adults for an in-person retreat** (maintaining COVID protocols, and making adjustments as necessary) on *Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Friendly Crossways in Harvard, with a Friday overnight option. The theme is “Learning to Walk with God in the World,” with a focus on discernment. Those interested in attending may complete this [information request form](#). FOR INFORMATION: Jocelyn Collen ([jocelyn@diomassintern.org](mailto:jocelyn@diomassintern.org)).

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## GRANTS & LOANS:

- The application and program information for **2022 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 15, 2021*, for sabbaticals in 2022. Submit applications to David Ames, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Suffragan, by e-mail at [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org) or by mail to him at the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas ([theakl@mit.edu](mailto:theakl@mit.edu)) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole ([sjrobbinscole@gmail.com](mailto:sjrobbinscole@gmail.com)).

- **Mission Strategy “Wicked Good Idea” Microgrants:** The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council is receiving applications for “Wicked Good Idea” microgrants to help congregations, networks or diocesan organizations try out a great idea that’s meant to further our shared [mission strategy](#). In 2021, a total of \$15,000 is set aside for individual grants from \$500 to \$2,000. Applications are received and grants awarded on a rolling basis until the funds are gone. Learn more [here](#).

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**DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
ACTIONS:**

At its Aug. 12 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to approve the allocation of remaining Together Now funds to the following mission hubs: \$67,445 to ProGente Connections and \$33,528 to Roxbury-Dorchester Power In Community.

Heard a report from the Treasurer’s Office about the draft 2022 budget.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** Saturday, Sept. 18 via Zoom.  
*FOR INFORMATION:* Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration ([csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

**CLERGY SEARCH &  
CALL REPORT:**

**Central Region**

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher  
[cgallagher@diomass.org](mailto:cgallagher@diomass.org)

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Billie Mae Gordon began as interim priest at St. John’s Church in Holbrook on Aug. 22.

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew’s Church  
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian’s Church  
WESTWOOD, St. John’s 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.)*

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

MEDWAY, Christ Church *part-time*

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

*None at this time.*

**Northern and Western Region**

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard  
[mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

GLOUCESTER, St. John’s Church

**RECTOR SEARCHES**

**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

CHELMSFORD, All Saints’ Church  
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

*None at this time.*

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*Continued from page 6***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church *quarter-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

HOLBROOK, St. John's Church

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church

**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church](#) *half-time (updated profile)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) *half-time*[SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity](#) *half-time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***NEXT *fyi*:**

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the Oct. 6 issue is **Wednesday, Sept. 29 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).