



Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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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Reparations Listening Gatherings underway this month

The 2021 Diocesan Convention resolution "[Charting the Long Road Towards Reparations](#)" calls on the diocese to commit 2022 as a year of study, gathering and sharing stories and discernment. To further this process, a series of regional "Reparations Listening Gatherings" is underway through *May 21*, via Zoom, hosted by the Reparations Subcommittee of the Racial Justice Commission and the regional canons. Find the schedule, registration links and publicity flier and graphic to share [here](#).

Deacons & transitional deacons to be ordained June 4

The diocesan community's prayers and presence are invited for the ordination of deacons and transitional deacons on *Saturday, June 4, 10:30 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. A livestream will be available via www.stpaulboston.org.

Those to be ordained deacons are: **Clifford Goodridge** (sponsored by Trinity Church, Randolph) and **Dawn Tesorero** (St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain).

Those to be ordained transitional deacons are: **Curtis Copersmith** (St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church, Lincoln), **Hal Edmonson** (St. Paul's Church, Brookline), **Isabel Geller** (St. Andrew's Church, Ayer), **Dorothy Goehring** (The Crossing, Boston), **Joseph Kimmel** (St. James's Church, Cambridge), **Adwoa Lewis-Wilson** (Christ Church, Cambridge), **Elizabeth Marshall** (St. Chrysostom's Church, Quincy) and **Atem Aruei Yak** (Grace Church, Everett).

The Rev. Adam Dawkins, sponsored by Trinity Church in Stoughton, was ordained a transitional deacon on April 25 at All Saints' Chapel at the University of the South, Sewanee.

Bishops' Appeal invites support for youth & young adult ministries

The Bishops' Appeal for 2022 has launched, with a focus on youth and young adult ministries. "With joy, we see our youth and young adult programs are again in full swing. Numerous in-person Confirmation services are planned for 2022. Our Life Together fellowship program is forming its cohort for next year. Church school programs are opening with resourcefulness and care all across eastern Massachusetts," the bishops say in their appeal. "All of this requires our deep engagement, because young people are not just the future of our church, they are our present. Your continued support allows these programs to launch, grow and bear fruit."

Find the Bishops' Appeal [here](#), with updates about current youth and young adult ministries and the online giving link to support this work.

FOR INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development (baustinspooner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

Nominating Committee seeks to broaden leadership diversity

The recently reconstituted Nominating Committee is seeking to fulfill the mission strategy charge to “broaden the diversity of leadership for all diocesan project teams and governing bodies.” The committee notes:

“Our experience has been that there is so much untapped talent, particularly of our lay siblings, that we can bring to bear on the challenges and opportunities facing us as a diocese. So, we want to do our part to change that. The responses to [this brief form](#) will be a living repository of the amazing breadth of the deep faith, acquired skills, lived experiences and hard-earned wisdom of lay Episcopalians in eastern Massachusetts. If you are lay person, you can complete it right now. If you are a priest or deacon, please share it with your congregations and ministries. Please pass the link around widely so that as many people as possible know their voice is needed and welcomed in the shared governance of our church.”

The direct link to the form, for sharing widely, is:

https://edom.formstack.com/forms/diomass_recruitment

By gathering a wide pool of leaders, the committee seeks to more easily serve as a matchmaker for positions that are open for election by Diocesan Convention or appointment by the bishops. Completing the form is not a commitment to a particular role.

Priests or deacons canonically resident in the diocese are invited to contact any member of the Nominating Committee, Diocesan Council or Standing Committee with questions about how to participate in shared governance.

FOR INFORMATION: Rob Kelleher, Nominating Committee member (rmkelleher@gmail.com) or The Rev. Rachel Wildman, Secretary of the Diocese (secretary@diomass.org).

Mark the calendar: Diocesan Convention is Oct. 28-29

*Earlier-than-usual submission deadline: **Friday, Sept. 2***

“By This They Will Know You: The Call of Love in Our Time and Place” has been announced as the theme for the 237th annual Diocesan Convention, to take place *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29* at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Boston North Shore in Danvers.

Early plans include Friday afternoon sessions focused on pressing questions of discipleship, and an evening dinner with a hymn/spirituals sing. Business sessions and the convention Eucharist will take place on Saturday.

The deadline for submitting all materials will be *Friday, Sept. 2*. This will be the final day to submit materials to the Convention Office, including nomination forms for elected positions, resolution submission forms and written reports.

All congregations are reminded to submit their congregational leadership reports, including certification of lay delegates, to make sure that their convention delegation will receive upcoming convention communications. Questions may be e-mailed to convention@diomass.org.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- A search process is now underway for **chief financial officer** on the diocesan staff, responsible for overseeing all financial operations of the diocese and playing a central role in managing information technology and human resources. The full job description, [here](#), is posted among the many open positions listed on the diocesan website [Employment page](#).
 - **Calling all lay preachers:** Are you currently serving as a lay preacher in your congregation or know of others who are? Lay preachers are being convened for a conversation to hear about one another's experiences as a lay preacher program is being developed for the diocese. Contact Martha Gardner, as below, to be included. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
 - Interested in learning **how to lead the Daily Offices, in particular, Morning Prayer?** The Rev. Carol Morehead of Grace Church in Medford will give an online training on *Sunday, June 26, 4-6 p.m.* Register [here](#). This training is especially appropriate for anyone who wishes to be licensed by the bishop as a lay worship leader. (The application for licensing can be found [here](#).) *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
 - **Continuing the Clergy Conference discussion:** We all have attended conferences at which we were stimulated by presentations and discussions and then returned home wishing we had the opportunity to continue the conversations. Those who attended the 2022 diocesan Clergy Conference are invited to continue the discussion on topics presented by the Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, and to think together about how to deepen theological reflection in congregational life: Join one another via Zoom on *Wednesday, May 18, from 3 to 4:15 p.m.* [Register here](#). Questions or topics for inclusion during the time together can be sent to the Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer at rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer, as above, or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
 - **Sermon videos available to congregations:** The bishops and designated diocesan staff members are self-recording video sermons for use by congregations in their online worship offerings for *Sundays through May 22*. Sermons are available mid-week prior to each assigned Sunday, for download via [this link](#), where the rota is also posted, or for viewing at www.youtube.com/ediomass.
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- As part of its series of Zoom seminars on the practical aspects of congregational leadership, the Congregational Consultants will be leading a seminar on “**Congregational Vital Documents.**” It will cover identification of vital documents, what they should include and how and where they should be stored. This session will be led by Chris Meyer, the coordinator of the Congregational Consultants, and should be useful to congregations large and small.

It will be held twice: *Tuesday, May 17 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)) and *Saturday, May 21 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)).

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

- The **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders** continues on the *fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m., May 24 and June 28.* Clergy, wardens and treasurers are invited to this regular opportunity to share information. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link. *FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO (challenbeck@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).*

- In July 2021 the new **online safe church training platform [Praesidium Academy](#)** launched with the first few in a new series of nine training modules titled “Safe Church, Safe Communities.”

As of Holy Week, three **new modules** titled “Pastoral Relationships, Inclusion, and Power and Relationships” went live. With one more module pending, the diocese will soon be rolling out a revised chart of “Who Should Take What” to help guide congregations toward compliance with the policies for the protection of children and youth and for vulnerable adults developed by the General Convention Task Force to Develop Model Anti-Sexual Harassment Policies and Safe Church Training and adopted by the diocese in 2019.

To further assist both seasoned practitioners and new personnel with the use of the new online platform to provide safe church training for clergy, staff and volunteers on the congregational level, **Praesidium Academy is presenting a series of webinars for administrators**, to cover how to navigate the admin dashboard and provide overviews of user management and reporting. Administrators are invited to attend one or more of the meetings scheduled between May and October, whether as a new academy admin or for a refresher on the system. Register for the webinars [here](#).

- Join this year’s cohort of Life Together fellows on *Saturday, May 7, 4-6 p.m.*, at Christ Church in Cambridge for the “**Linked Through Love**” **gathering to celebrate the resilient young changemakers of Life Together.** This event will offer opportunities to connect with friends throughout the diocese, learn about Life Together’s future as it comes out of this pandemic season and support its efforts to raise \$45,000 for fellow stipends and health insurance for 2022. Tickets start at \$40, available at www.lifetogethercommunity.org/contribute.

FOR INFORMATION: Kelsey Rice Bogdan, Executive Director, Life Together (kelsey@diomassintern.org).

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- The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, in partnership with the diocesan Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, is hosting the **One Journey Festival**, featuring the Pihcintu Multinational Girls Choir, on *Saturday, May 7, 4-6 p.m.* The One Journey Festival strives to build enduring allies for refugees and uses cultural and technological tools to facilitate human connections between refugees and their host communities. [Register here.](#)
 - The B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign in the Diocese of Massachusetts has been a lead supporter of the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) for nearly a decade. After a two-year COVID hiatus, the walk will again be in person this year, on *Sunday, May 8.* Join B-PEACE and Bishop Alan M. Gates in participating in and/or supporting this fundraising walk this year. Support the B-PEACE team [here.](#) Find more details about the walk [here.](#)
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Liz Steinhauser, St. Stephen's Church, Boston (liz@ststephensbos.org).
 - **BIPOC Support Gathering:** The Racial Justice Commission's Subcommittee on Support of BIPOC Individuals and Communities is holding an in-person gathering at the diocesan offices at 138 Tremont Street in Boston on *Friday, May 13, 5:30-8 p.m.*, to which all who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color are welcome. Please e-mail the co-chairs, Claudette Hunt (claudettehunt@aol.com) or the Rev. Diane Wong (dianeckwong@gmail.com) if interested in attending.

Additionally, the Rev. Dr. Jim Kodera, the first Asian/Asian American person ordained in the Diocese of Massachusetts, will be giving a Zoom presentation, "**Faith as a Verb: Peace and Justice and Asians in the Church,**" on *Wednesday, May 25, 7-8:30 p.m.* This presentation is co-sponsored by the Racial Justice Commission's Subcommittee on Fostering Antiracist Episcopal Communities, Subcommittee on Support for BIPOC Communities and Individuals, and Asian Pacific Islander Americans of the diocese. All are invited. Register in advance [here.](#)

- **El Comité Hispano will host Volvemos Encendidas y Encendidos: Una Fiesta Pan-Latina Episcopal** on *Saturday June 4, 1-3 p.m.*, at Piers Park on Marginal Street in East Boston. The gathering will be conducted in Spanish, will bring together Latin@s Episcopales from throughout the diocese for fellowship and will launch joint work around Beloved Community vital in communities as multiracial and multi-ethnic as those of this diocese. Come, enjoy some delicious food, fellowship and prayer on the eve of Pentecost. Click [here](#) to offer any questions and to RSVP.
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- **“Rooted and Rising in Love,” a summer solstice in-person retreat**, will be offered on *Tuesday, June 21, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, who serves as creation care advisor for the Diocese of Massachusetts.

In the face of converging social and ecological crises, what spiritual practices and perspectives can sustain us? As we struggle to protect the web of life and to create a more just society, where do we turn for meaning and strength? This one-day retreat will include a mix of presentations, small group conversations, individual reflection and free time for contemplative wandering and prayer. Together participants will explore a framework for the heart for becoming compassionate, prophetic leaders who can take up the mantle of moral leadership that this decisive moment in history requires.

Find event details and registration [here](#); registration is open until June 10.

CHURCHWIDE:

- As the **80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church** nears, legislative committee work is already well underway, and **all are invited to participate in online hearings**. This is how:

Review the Legislative Committee Meetings Calendar, [here](#), to learn about upcoming hearings or meetings and the resolutions to be discussed at each, then go to the Legislative Committee Meeting Registration page, [here](#), where you can choose your preferred language and register to either observe or testify at a hearing. (Note that registration requests must be received at least two business days prior to the meeting date in order to be processed.)

Everyone’s presence and testimony are invaluable as a way to incorporate the wisdom of the wider church into the convention’s deliberations. [General Convention](#) takes place *July 7-14* in Baltimore.

- Three years after launching [Sacred Ground](#), a dialogue series on race, racism and whiteness, The Episcopal Church’s Racial Reconciliation and Justice Team has released a comprehensive [evaluation report](#), updated curriculum and resources, and expanded licensing that invites people in other denominations or faiths to start their own Sacred Ground circles. Read more about the report’s findings and updates and additions to the program [here](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Clergy children scholarship grants:** 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.

The application deadline is *Monday, May 9*. The 2022 application materials are on the diocesan website [here](#).

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its March 17 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Welcomed the Rev. David Milam to Diocesan Council as a deanery representative for the Taunton River Deanery.

Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about the proposed 2023 assessment formula.

At its April 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to approve the following 2023 assessment formula:

Resolved, where BASE for 2023 is equal to line A ("Normal Operating Income") from the 2020 Parochial Report, less line 13 ("Outreach from Operating Budget"), that the 2023 assessment for parishes be calculated as follows:

BASE between:

0 and \$49,999.99	0.50% of BASE
\$50,000 and \$99,999.99	\$250 plus 7% of BASE-50,000
\$100,000 and \$249,999.99	\$3750 plus 12.70% of BASE-100,000
\$250,000 and \$499,999.99	\$3750 plus 13.10% of BASE-100,000
\$500,000 and \$999,999.99	\$3750 plus 13.25% of BASE-100,000
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999.99	\$3750 plus 13.50% of BASE-100,000
BASE of \$2,000,000	\$3750 plus 14.50% of BASE-100,000

For a mission, the 2023 assessment is two-thirds of the amount calculated above.

Heard a report from the Budget Committee about 2023 budget planning.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about progress on tracking each mission strategy goal.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, May 19, 6-8:30 p.m., via Zoom.*

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. Ennis Duffis will retire as rector of St. Anne's Church and St. John's Church in Lowell on June 30.

The Rev. Pattie Handloss began as interim priest at St. Andrew's Church in Hanover on March 27.

The Rev. Barbara Peterson will begin as bridge priest at St. John's Church in Sandwich on May 8.

The Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock will retire as rector of St. Andrew's Church in Ayer on July 31.

The Rev. Andrew Stoessel will retire as rector of St. Michael's Church in Marblehead on May 31.

The Rev. Storm Swain will begin as bridge priest at the Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole on May 15.

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Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church
 CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church
 MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent
 ROXBURY, St. Cyprian'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.)*

[WESTWOOD, St. John's Church](#)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:*None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

CANTON, Trinity Church and STOUGHTON, Trinity Church, *full-time*
 MEDWAY, Christ Church, *part-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church, *part-time*

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church: [Associate for/Director of Parish Life](#)

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

AYER, St. Andrew's Church
 BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church
 HUDSON, St. Luke's Church
 LOWELL, St. Anne's Church
 LOWELL, St. John's Church
 MARBLEHEAD, St. Michael's Church

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

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

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

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
 GROVELAND, St. James's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:*None at this time.**Continued on page 9*

*Continued from page 8***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*HAVERHILL, Trinity Church, *half-time*METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church *half-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church:

Curate/Assistant Rector

WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany: Associate Rector**Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church

PROVINCETOWN, Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

SANDWICH, St. John's Church

WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah

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

HOLBROOK, St. John's Church

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*ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-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.*BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church *full-time*FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church *part-time*SANDWICH, St. John's Church *full-time*WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah *full-time***NEXT fyi:***fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the June issue is **Wednesday, May 25 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.