



Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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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Presiding Bishop Curry to help celebrate Old North Church's 300th

Publicity materials are available to help spread the word in congregations about Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's planned visit to Boston in April to celebrate Old North Church's 300th anniversary and to spend time with youth and young adults in the diocese. Find posters, bulletin insert and publicity graphics [here](#).

Curry will preach and speak at two celebratory services at Old North on **Sunday, April 16: 11 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist** and a **6 p.m. Lantern Service** that promises to be an inspirational evening of song and rededication, culminating in the lighting of Old North's steeple lanterns. For details and tickets, visit www.diomass.org/Old-North-300.

While in Boston for the Old North celebration, Curry also will be participating in two free events on **Saturday, April 15**, one open to all **diocesan middle and high school youth** and their adult mentors, **from 9 to 11 a.m.** at St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury; and another for **young adults** (over 18) in the diocese, **from 2 to 4 p.m.** at Boston University. For details and registration, go to www.diomass.org/PB-2023-Youth-Young-Adults.

Congregations invited to participate in renewed Bishops' Annual Appeal

An ambitious goal has been set to raise \$300,000 for 2023 through the renewed **Bishops' Annual Appeal** in support of shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation.

The bishops have asked clergy and wardens to promote the Bishops' Annual Appeal locally, by announcing it and distributing materials directly to their congregations, and designating *March 19* (or another date) as an "Ingathering Sunday" during Lent.

Materials have been mailed directly to church offices, and downloads of a newsletter, poster, sample bulletin announcements and a short video that can be used in electronic newsletters are available at www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant, (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

Implementing Diocesan Convention resolutions:

Support & engage with the Poor People's Campaign:

March 21 preaching and dinner with the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

The **Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign Episcopal Network** welcomes all for a dinner and conversation with the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis on *Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m.*, following her preaching as part of the Lenten series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Theoharis is the director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice and the national co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

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This is an opportunity for Episcopalians across both Massachusetts dioceses to learn about the Poor People's Campaign, ways to engage and support it (as last October's [Diocesan Convention](#) resolved to do) and how to organize as a network. The network dinner and conversation will follow the 5:15 p.m. Lenten Preaching Series service, which includes its own time for refreshments and conversation with the preacher.

Register [here](#) so that organizers have a count for dinner. There is no cost for this dinner; those able to help contribute to cover its cost are invited to e-mail the MA Poor People's Campaign Episcopal Network at MAPPCEN@gmail.com.

**Fostering Right Relationships
with Indigenous Neighbors:**
Working groups are now forming

The 2022 Diocesan Convention called on the diocesan Racial Justice Commission and the Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network of the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts, together with the Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network of Province I, to support this diocese in the implementation of the resolution "[Fostering Right Relationship: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Indigenous Episcopalians and Our Indigenous Neighbors.](#)"

To that end, the commission and networks are seeking individuals to **join one of four working groups that are being organized:** Land Acknowledgement Recommendations, co-chaired by Charlotte Hand Greeson and Margaret Lias; Education and Formation, chaired by Michael Scuderi; Relationships and Allyship, chaired by the Rev. H. Mark Smith; and Liturgical and Worship Resources, chaired by the Rev. Matthew Cadwell. Notes from the January organizing meeting are available [here](#). Those interested in more information or participation can contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org, or the Rev. H. Mark Smith, co-chair of the Racial Justice Commission, at hmsmith46@gmail.com.

**Lenten & Holy Week
invitations from the
Cathedral Church of
St. Paul**

The "**A Woman's Testimony**" Lenten preaching series on *Tuesdays in Lent at 5:15 p.m.*—in person and livestreamed—is underway. This year, to mark the 100th anniversary of the first sermon by a woman at the [Cathedral Church of St. Paul](#), five female-identifying preachers will open up the story of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus in John 4. These services of lamp-lighting with Taize chant are followed by refreshments and conversation with the preacher. Find the full schedule [here](#).

Clergy are invited to join the bishops at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul for one of two services of **Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oil**, on *Holy Tuesday, April 4, at noon and 6 p.m.* (Details were e-mailed to clergy on Feb. 23.) Register [here](#) by March 28; registration includes an optional meal for purchase for those who would like to stay for conversation.

Bishop Alan M. Gates will preside at the **Easter Vigil with Confirmations**, on *Saturday, April 8 at 7 p.m.* To register Confirmation candidates, contact Brad Rothrock, Cathedral Administrator (brothrock@diomass.org).

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer has officially launched:** The St. Paul Center exists to form disciples of Jesus in every congregation, and seeks to equip and resource local congregations for the tasks and joys of faith formation, teaching and learning, catechesis and the life of prayer. Offering resources on-line, and events both in person and virtually, the St. Paul Center is open to all and exists for the enrichment of every congregation and individual in the diocese. Find the center's recent "ribbon cutting" e-mail copy [here](#), and newsletter sign-up [here](#).

 - **Get an early start on your stewardship campaign:** This year's stewardship campaign theme from TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) is "Rooted in Abundance," with resource materials for Liturgical Year A available in English and Spanish, including: logos and artwork; timeline and campaign implementation; Prayers of the People; sample campaign letters and pledge cards; and weekly reflections. Find materials at www.tens.org; the password is: Jeremiah17:8
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant, (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

 - The **Creation Care Justice Network** has been working to develop a tool for congregations called "An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice." The goal is to create an accessible, appealing program that will guide congregations to pray, learn, act and advocate in ways that are faithful to the Gospel call to love God's creation and to build a more just, safe and healthy future for all. The group hopes to share more in the coming months. In the meantime, they offer suggested activities and their "Sustainable Life" resource list, [here](#). Sign up [here](#) to get connected and receive e-mail updates. Upcoming meetings of the group working on "An Episcopal Path" are scheduled on *Wednesday evenings, March 1 and 15*. E-mail CreationJusticeEpisMa@gmail.com for more information.

 - **"Healing Judgment" online Lenten retreat:** This free online retreat on *Saturday, March 18, 9:30 a.m.-noon*, is open to all and aims to create a space in which to grow in self-awareness, self-acceptance and compassion for self, one another and our wounded, magnificent world. The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, creation care advisor to the diocese, will lead this retreat, co-sponsored by the Episcopal dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. Find more details and registration [here](#).

 - **Calling all lay preachers:** A regular Zoom gathering for lay preachers in the diocese is getting underway so they can support one another. A first gathering, to hear about what would be helpful on an ongoing basis, is planned on *Wednesday, March 22, 7-8 p.m.* Contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org with questions or to get the Zoom meeting invite.
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- Interested in learning how to lead the Daily Offices, in particular, Morning Prayer? **Lay Worship Leader Training** will be offered via Zoom on *Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.* The training will be led by the Rev. Carol Morehead, the rector of Grace Church in Medford. This training is especially appropriate for anyone who wishes to be licensed by the bishop as a lay worship leader. (Find the application for licensing [here](#).) Register for the training [here](#). Space is limited to 25 people.

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

- The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened through the Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries invites the diocesan community to join virtually on *Saturday, April 1 at 6 p.m.* for a **multicultural “Palm Sunday Eve Celebration** of the Human Journey Toward New Life in Freedom,” starting Holy Week together from among many cultures. Register [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development (jcollen@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 216).

- **“Answering the Provocative Call: To Desire, Love and Enfold Our Differences”**: The BIPOC Support Subcommittee of the diocesan Racial Justice Commission is offering this day of reflection and renewal, open to all, on *Saturday, April 29, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. All are invited to come be inspired in community with reflections led by Debie Thomas, author of *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*, with time for silence, shared reflections, prayer and a meal together. Registration is required at www.diomass.org/event/Debie-Thomas. The \$10 fee includes lunch; scholarships are available. Find a flier [here](#) to help publicize this opportunity to come be renewed in the journey toward justice and joy this Easter.

- **Clergy Professional Development Days in 2023** are offered in two parts, with each part held four times between March and September. Find the schedule and registration for all sessions [here](#).

Part I is a workshop led by The Samaritans of Boston, with a focus on learning about suicide prevention, how to help those who have lost a loved one to suicide and reducing the associated stigma. All clergy are encouraged to attend.

Part II is a Safe Church Review which, along with attendance at a Part I workshop, fulfills the refresher requirement for clergy. Those who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett (jgarrett@diomass.org).

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

- The annual **Clergy Conference** takes place *Monday, May 1 (10 a.m.) through Tuesday, May 2 (9 p.m.)* at the Devens Common Center in Devens. This year’s guest presenter will be the Rev. Isaiah

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Shaneequa Brokenleg, Episcopal Church Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation (brief bio [here](#)), with a program comprising a series of workshops that explore storytelling and the role of narrative in racial healing. The conference agenda will include bishops' time and the return of the Bishops' Banquet, as well as optional visits to local cultural institutions and guided tours.

Clergy are invited to register as an overnight, commuter or livestream attendee (please note that livestreaming will include bishops' time and conference worship but will be non-participatory, with limited workshop coverage). Deacons and part-time, associate, non-parochial and retired clergy are eligible for a \$50 discount on overnight registration types. Registration is open, [here](#), until noon on *Friday, April 7* (after which a \$25 late fee will apply).

The Clergy Professional Development Committee can be reached with any questions at CPDC@diomass.org.

- Boston University's Albert and Jessie Danielsen Institute is recruiting clergy, chaplains and therapists to participate in a free, eight-week online formation and support program that is part of a larger research project **to address helping professionals' sense of burnout and vicarious trauma**. Find more information about the program [here](#). As part of a randomized intervention study, participation will help the institute better understand the unique needs of helping professionals in today's world and refine and evaluate this online program. Financial compensation (up to \$60) is available for completion of self-assessment measures and program feedback surveys. Interested individuals can click [here](#) to complete a brief interest form. Questions may be directed to Dr. Steven Sandage, the principal investigator of the study, at ssandage@bu.edu.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- An **updated document for 2023 summarizing diocesan grant and loan programs** is available [here](#). Many accept applications on a rolling basis. A letter of intent for Congregational Development Grants is due *Monday, March 6*.

Recipients of a 2022 deanery [House of Mercy or Sending Serving Grant](#) need to submit a brief year-end report on their ministries, required before they are eligible to receive deanery grant funds in subsequent years. Recipients should use this opportunity to showcase their project and good stewardship of funds.

FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

- **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 *Friday, May 12*, with notification of awards by June 12. The 2023 grant materials are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Diocesan (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).*

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ACTIONS:**

At its Feb. 16 meeting, the Diocesan Council:
Voted to approve the Rev. Walter Connelly to the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council.
Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 16, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*
FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

**CLERGY SEARCH &
CALL REPORT:**

Please direct inquiries to the [regional canons](#) regarding this report.

CLERGY CHANGES:
The Rev. Brett Johnson has been called as rector of Emmanuel Church in Wakefield and will begin his ministry there March 6.

Central Region
Alewife & Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Martha Hubbard mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:
BOSTON, Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin
DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church
MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent
NEWTON, Grace Church

Boston Harbor & Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell koconnell@diomass.org

RECTOR SEARCHES
CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:
BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church
BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:
None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*
LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:
None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*
MEDWAY, Christ Church *1/3 time*
NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church *1/2 time*
WEST ROXBURY, Emmanuel Church *1/4 time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*
BOSTON, Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:
BEDFORD, St. Paul's Church: [Curate/Associate](#)

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

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

LOWELL, St. John's Church

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

AYER, St. Andrew's Church
 FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church
 HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church
 HUDSON, St. Luke's Church
 MARBLEHEAD, St. Michael's Church
 NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:*None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church](#)[GROVELAND, St. James's Church](#) *(Short list search: Contact regional canon if interested) 1/2 time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church *full time*
 LOWELL, St. Anne's Church *1/2 time*
 WESTON, St. Peter's Church *full time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church *1/2 time***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist
 MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church
 NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church

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

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church
 FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church
 PLYMOUTH, Christ Church
 SANDWICH, St. John's Church
 WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah
 WRENTHAM, Trinity Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church *1/2 time**Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church 1/2 timeBUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church 1/2 timeHOLBROOK, St. John's Church 1/2 timePROVINCETOWN, Church of St. Mary of the Harbor full timeSOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity 1/2 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.*FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church and WRENTHAM, Trinity Church *full-time collaboration*HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist *full time*NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church *full time*PLYMOUTH, Christ Church *full time*

NEXT *fyi*:*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the April issue is **Wednesday, March 29 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.