



Wednesday, July 5, 2023

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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### **“In Christ, Called to Collaborate”: Convention registration opens soon**

*Nominations, resolutions, materials due Sept. 1*

Online registration will open soon for Diocesan Convention, to take place *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28* at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers. This year’s theme is “In Christ, Called to Collaborate.” Convention is open to all in the diocesan community and includes non-business programming on Friday. Early registration is encouraged. **The registration link and other details will be available soon** at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023).

The **deadline for submitting all materials** is *Friday, Sept. 1*. 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 current convention delegation will receive upcoming convention communications. Questions may be e-mailed to [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org).

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### **“An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice” pilot program begins this fall**

The Creation Care Justice Network in the dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts will be offering a pilot program for its newly created “An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice.” The program aims to provide individualized support for congregations to take meaningful steps in response to the climate emergency. **Twelve congregations will be actively sought to participate in the six-month pilot program** (October 2023 through April 2024). Pilot congregations will receive individualized coaching, access to extensive resource materials and networking with a cohort of other congregations across Massachusetts who are engaged in this work. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Rachel Field, project coordinator ([rachelf2000@gmail.com](mailto:rachelf2000@gmail.com)).*

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### **Rescheduled opportunity to consider “Why Go to Church?”**

The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer’s Cathedral Church of St. Paul site gathering for the **“Why Go to Church?”** program has been rescheduled for *Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.* All are invited to spend this day considering this important question. Clarify your own answer and deepen your capacity to invite others into the gift of gathering “in real life,” through reflection on the theological, pastoral and missional value of Christian assembly. Details and registration are at [www.stpaulboston.org/tspcwhychurch](http://www.stpaulboston.org/tspcwhychurch).

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### **Bishops reiterate guidelines for ongoing COVID public health concern**

The bishops have reiterated current guidelines now that the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended and has been classified as an established and ongoing public health concern. Those **guidelines, issued June 22, are available [here](#)**.

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## NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened through the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries will present a workshop on **“Immigration Education for Churches and Faith-Based Organizations”** on *Saturday, July 22, 3-5 p.m.*, at St. Anne’s Church in North Billerica.

Topics to be covered include knowing one’s rights (as an immigrant or non-immigrant); effects of climate change on global migration; and the process for seeking legal status. All are welcome.

*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).*

- The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will host an **open house** on *Wednesday, July 26, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*, **celebrating its 20th year of summer camp ministry**. The day will include opportunities to worship, meet the staff, have lunch, relax and refresh and dream together about the next 20 years. Register [here](#) or by e-mail to [info@bchcenter.org](mailto:info@bchcenter.org).

- The sisters of the Order of St. Anne—Bethany Convent in Arlington invite members of the diocesan community and their families to come and **celebrate St. Anne’s Day** on *Sunday, July 30 at 4 p.m.*, with Brother Curtis Almquist, SSJE preaching and presiding. Supper will follow in the garden. RSVP to 781-643-0921 or [bethanyconvent@aol.com](mailto:bethanyconvent@aol.com).

- All diocesan clergy are invited to **save the date for the annual Clergy Day**, to be held on *Tuesday, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.* More information and registration to attend in person at The Link at Kendall Square in Cambridge, or to view a livestream of the program, will be available soon.

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

- The fourth and **final opportunity to attend the 2023 Clergy Professional Development Day**, offered in two parts, will take place on *Saturday, Sept. 9* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Find registration for this final session [here](#).

**Session I features a workshop led by The Samaritans** of Boston and focuses on learning about suicide prevention; how to help those who have lost a loved one to suicide; and reducing the stigma associated with suicide. This program is in support of the 2018 General Convention resolution [C014](#) “Urging Clergy Training on Suicide Prevention.” All clergy are encouraged to attend the workshop. **Session II is a Safe Church review** segment that fulfills the refresher requirement for those clergy who are due for one this year to maintain good standing. Clergy who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org).

*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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- **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered via Zoom on two consecutive weeknights (you must attend both): *Tuesday, Sept. 19 and Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.* Register [here](#).

To be licensed by the bishop as a lay eucharistic visitor, one must complete training, be up to date with Safe Church training and have signed authorization from their congregation's clergy person. The application for licensing is online [here](#).

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

- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network invites all to join the first in a series of book discussions.** Discussion of [The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relationships](#) by Shirley N. Hager and Mawopiyane will take place on *Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 7 to 8:15 p.m.* on Zoom. Register [here](#).

Additional book studies are planned on *Nov. 8 (This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving* by David J. Silverman); *Jan. 10, 2024 (Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War* by Lisa Brooks) and *March 13, 2024 (Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe* by David Maraniss).

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

- The steering team for the Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is hosting a meeting on *Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-noon*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. The goal is to **connect Episcopal justice groups in the Diocese of Massachusetts**, creating a path to work together to promote divine justice for all. Anyone who is part of a committee, commission, group, network or congregation working in the area of interlocking injustices (poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy, systemic racism, religious nationalism) is welcome to be part of the conversation. Contact Amelia Slawsby at [mappcen@gmail.com](mailto:mappcen@gmail.com) to join.

## **CHURCHWIDE:**

- The Episcopal Church Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop on May 15 issued a letter to the church announcing the availability of the **"Profile for the Election of the 28th Presiding Bishop"** (in English, Spanish and French) and inviting Episcopalians to submit the names of bishops for the committee to consider as nominees. The deadline for submitting names is *Saturday, July 15*. Find the letter and profile links [here](#).

- In response to two recent General Convention resolutions, The Episcopal Church Office of Indigenous Ministries is offering a new **resource for those wishing to design and implement Indigenous land acknowledgements at church-related gatherings.**

“The Episcopal Church and Indigenous Land Acknowledgements” is a six-page downloadable booklet available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). It includes information on what a land acknowledgement is and is not; guidance on who does a land acknowledgement; and key elements to include.

General Convention resolutions [C072](#) and [D019](#)—adopted last July—call for the implementation of “land acknowledgement liturgies and prayers to begin any public meetings or worship held in North America” and the promotion of Indigenous land acknowledgements “at all gatherings within the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and its affiliate organizations.”

Many congregations, dioceses and church groups and organizations have begun the practice of making land acknowledgements regarding the Indigenous people who live on or used to live on the land the acknowledging groups currently occupy. Learn more [here](#).

- **New Episcopal Community grant applications** are open for dioceses and mission developers who are envisioning, planning or growing new worshiping communities and missional enterprises throughout the church. The deadline to apply for the second round of 2023 New Episcopal Community grant funding is *Aug. 1*.

The Episcopal Church Office for Church Planting and Redevelopment holds [workshops via Zoom](#) to answer questions and offer guidance, with one coming up on *July 6, 3-4 p.m.* Find additional information [here](#).

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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its June 15 meeting, Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Treasurer’s Office and Budget Committee about the 2024 budget.

Heard a report from the development consultant, the Rev. Brian Raiche, about the Bishops’ Annual Appeal.

Heard a report from Charlie Jordan and Beth Westvold about the Trustees of Donations.

Heard a report from the secretary of the diocese, the Rev. Rachel Wildman, about the annual Diocesan Convention.

Voted to approve the following appointments to the Committee on Constitution and Canons: The Rev. Daniel Dice, The Rev. Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, The Rev. Michael Thompson, Eleanor Evans and Doug Flores.

**Next Council Meeting:** *Thursday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m., on Zoom.*

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

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## CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

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

### **Central Region**

Alewife & Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Martha Hubbard [mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)

Boston Harbor & Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell [koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)

### **Northern and Western Region**

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

### **CLERGY CHANGES:**

**The Rev. John Brockmann** retired as rector of Grace Church in Norwood on June 4.

**The Rev. Marya DeCarlen** will complete her ministry as rector of All Saints Church of the North Shore in Danvers on Aug. 27 and begins as priest-in-charge of St. John's Church in Gloucester on Sept. 6

**The Rev. Christopher Whiteman** will complete his ministry as associate rector of Trinity Church in Concord on Aug. 19 and will begin as rector of St. Peter's Church in Beverly on Aug. 20.

### **CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

NORWOOD, Grace Church

### **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.)  
None at this time.*

#### **CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer

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

DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church 3/4 time

MEDWAY, Christ Church 1/3 time

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

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

#### **OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**

WABAN, Parish of the Good Shepherd: [Assistant Priest](#)

### **CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore

LOWELL, St. Anne's Church

LOWELL, St. John's Church

ROCKPORT, St. Mary'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

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:** *None at this time.*

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

[GROVELAND, St. James's Church](#) *(Short list search) 1/2 time*

*Continued from page 5***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:** *None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*  
NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church *half time*  
WESTON, St. Peter's Church *full time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*  
*None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**MARBLEHEAD, Four local parishes: [Youth minister/director](#)**Southern Region**Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church

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

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

SANDWICH, St. John's Church

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) *1/2 time*[HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church](#) *1/2 time*[HOLBROOK, St. John's Church](#) *1/2 time*[NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church](#) *full time*[PLYMOUTH, Christ Church](#) *full time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:** *None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church *1/4 time*FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church *1/8 time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***Clergy Supply List:** To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations, at [jcollen@diomass.org](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org).***NEXT fyi:****fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the August issue is **Wednesday, July 26 at noon.** E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).