



Wednesday, Aug. 2, 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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“In Christ, Called to Collaborate”: Convention registration is open

Nominations, resolutions, materials due Sept. 1

Online registration is now open 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. **Registration, hotel reservation and exhibitor application links, along with other details and updates, are all posted at 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 is receiving convention communications.

Questions may be e-mailed to convention@diomass.org.

Bishop search consultants and Nominating Committee co-chairs announced

In a July 19 letter ([here](#)) updating the diocesan community on the bishop search and election process, the Standing Committee announced the **hiring of search consultants and the appointment of three Nominating Committee co-chairs**.

The process of seeking the next bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts is guided by a team of consultants who work under the supervision of The Episcopal Church’s Office for Pastoral Development. They are Judy Stark, a veteran of more than 20 searches since 2009, and two consultants-in-training, Marsha McCurdy Adell, who recently served as the co-chair of the Bishop Transitions Committee for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and the Rev. Geof Smith, the recently retired chief operating officer of The Episcopal Church and a deacon serving in New Hampshire and Vermont (and formerly Massachusetts).

Nominating Committee co-chairs are the Rev. Diane Wong of St. John’s Church in Arlington, Linda Ouellette of St. Michael’s Church in Holliston and William Boyce of Grace Church in New Bedford.

The Standing Committee is in the process of fully constituting the Nominating Committee, calling a chaplain and developing a timeline. A page on the diocesan website has been created at www.diomass.org/bishop-search for access to key information as it becomes available. In addition, the Standing Committee welcomes e-mail inquiries at diomasssearchcom@gmail.com.

Life Together program to take a sabbath year in 2024-2025

The bishops and leaders of the diocese's [Life Together](#) young adult fellowship program announced in mid-July that the program will take a sabbath for the 2024-2025 program year "as we discern faithful next steps for a ministry that has formed more than 200 young adults in the past 24 years." They cited a "changing landscape for young adult service programs" and the need to reimagine Life Together's program model "to meet the needs of a new generation of young adults." A Discernment Team is to be formed this summer.

The sabbath plan will not directly affect Life Together's current program year, which gets underway this month with the welcoming of up to six young adult fellows.

Read the full announcement to the Life Together community from the executive director, Kelsey Rice Bogdan, [here](#).

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- 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. **The network is looking for 12 congregations 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.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Rachel Field, project coordinator (rachelf2000@gmail.com).

- **Stewardship pledge campaign resources from TENS** (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) are available at no cost to congregations through the diocesan TENS membership. This year's theme is "Rooted in Abundance." Materials are available, in English and Spanish, via www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/rooted-in-abundance-2023. The password is: Jeremiah17:8

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

- The **diocesan chaplains to retired clergy, spouses and survivors are available** for pastoral care as well as providing help and information about the Church Pension Fund. They are ([by deanery](#)): **Alewife:** The Rev. Joyce Caggiano (617-896-7986); **Boston Harbor, Neponset River, South Shore:** The Rev. Robert Edson (781-749-2488) and Nina Leek (781-812-2181); **Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay, Taunton River:** The Rev. Billie Mae Gordon (617-584-2737); **Cape and Islands:** The Rev. Bill Heuss and Margaret Anne Heuss (508-423-0188/774-208-1945); **Charles River and Concord River:** The Rev. Maureen Kemeza (617-869-1125); **Merrimack Valley, Mystic Valley, North Shore:** The Rev. Cliff Cutler (978-878-8942) and Edna Shirley (978-683-1636).
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- The fourth and **final opportunity to attend the 2023 Clergy Professional Development Day**, offered in two parts, is *Saturday, Sept. 9* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Find registration for the final sessions [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. Those unsure if they are due for renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- All diocesan clergy are invited to gather for the **annual Clergy Day**, this year at [The Link in Kendall Square, Cambridge](#) on *Tuesday, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, for a program featuring the Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish, a Presbyterian minister, therapist and teacher who is passionate about the health and care of clergy and congregations. Standish will lead the gathering through live talks and interactive small group work. For more information and registration visit <https://ticketstripe.com/Fall-Clergy-Day-2023>. *FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Networking and Events (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).*

- **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, you must complete training, be up to date with Safe Church training and have signed authorization from your congregation’s clergy person. The application for licensing is online [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (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 or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- Join [Episcopal City Mission \(ECM\)](#) for its Annual Meeting, which will take place on *Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. All canonically resident clergy and two lay persons from every parish will be able to vote; everyone else in attendance will be granted seat and voice to participate in the meeting.

Register online [here](#) to receive updates and other critical information ahead of the meeting. ECM will also have a watch party/remote options, so be sure to register if you hope to participate and are not certain you can be there in person. Questions may be directed to Derek Wong at admin@ecmteam.us.

- 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 to join.

CHURCHWIDE:

- The [Episcopal Parish Network](#) is offering an online workshop, **"Safety and Security in Our Churches,"** on *Monday, Aug. 14, 3-4 p.m.* Given that schools, stores, government facilities and churches across the country have been targets of indiscriminate violence and senseless loss, and that no place is immune from this scourge, it's important to work to provide safe and secure environments where such events are less likely to occur, and to be prepared to minister to those affected. This workshop will present a conversation with representatives from three parishes across the country about how they are engaging in safety planning and reimagining security in their churches and on their campuses. The session aims for participants to leave with practical ideas on how to be prepared while being open to all. Find more information and registration [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.

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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](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m., on 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 about this report to the [regional canons](#).

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. William Bergmann will begin serving as quarter-time bridge priest at St. Mark’s Church in Westford and with Trinity Chapel in Shirley on Sept. 5.

The Rev. Kristian C. Kohler completed his service at St. Anne’s-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln on July 8 and began as assistant rector at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waban on July 24.

The Rev. Ryan Lun began serving with the Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry on July 16, continuing until Dec. 31.

The Rev. Brian Raiche will complete his ministry at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading on Aug. 31, and will begin as the rector of the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor in Provincetown on Sept. 1.

Central Region

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

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

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul
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

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

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

MEDWAY, Christ Church 1/4 time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian’s Church

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard

mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore

LOWELL, St. Anne’s Church

LOWELL, St. John’s Church

READING, Church of the Good Shepherd

ROCKPORT, St. Mary’s Church

WOBURN, Trinity 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

SHIRLEY, Trinity Chapel

WESTFORD, St. Mark’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*

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.

Southern Region

Regional Canon Kelly O’Connell

koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary’s Church

SANDWICH, St. John’s Church

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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

[PLYMOUTH, Christ Church](#) full time

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church

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

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church 1/8 time

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church full 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.

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the September issue is **Wednesday, Aug. 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
