



Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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### Get ready for Diocesan Convention at upcoming forums

Find registration, materials and more at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023).

Diocesan Convention takes place *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28* at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers. Convention is open to all in the diocesan community and includes non-business programming on Friday exploring this year's theme, "In Christ, Called to Collaborate." Registration, Friday program information and other details are at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023).

**Pre-Convention Forums**, online via Zoom, offer an important opportunity for discussion about the issues and business to come before the Diocesan Convention, including the proposed 2024 diocesan budget and proposed resolutions. Participation by region is recommended, but anyone is welcome to attend the forum that is most convenient. Zoom links are at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023). Pre-Convention Forums will be held on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.*: Central Region
- *Thursday, Oct. 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m.*: Northern and Western Region
- *Friday, Oct. 6, 2:00-3:30 p.m.*: Any Region
- *Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.*: Southern Region

To prepare for these forums, pre-recorded video reports are available to view ahead of time on the YouTube "2023 Pre-Diocesan Convention Forum Videos" playlist [here](#).

**Clergy desiring to vote at Diocesan Convention** must be canonically resident two weeks prior to its start; contact Laura Simons at [lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org) to complete this process by *Friday, Oct. 13*. **Delegate changes** should be reported to the Convention Office via the substitute delegate form found [here](#). Forms will be accepted in the Convention Office until *Friday, Oct. 20*. After that date, contact the Convention Office at [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org) to ensure the change is processed.

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### Listening sessions with Bishop Nominating Committee are underway

The **series of listening sessions organized by the Bishop Nominating Committee is underway**, to gather input from the people of the diocese regarding their vision for the future and the qualities sought in a new bishop. Feedback from these sessions will help to guide the search process and will be incorporated in the diocesan profile that will be shared with the prospective nominees.

Find the current list of upcoming listening sessions, registration link and Zoom links [here](#). Questions about the listening sessions should be directed to [co-chairs@mabishopsearch.org](mailto:co-chairs@mabishopsearch.org).

Visit [www.diomass.org/bishop-search](http://www.diomass.org/bishop-search) for more information and updates as they become available.

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**Joint MA-WMA  
Indigenous Peoples' Day  
gathering open to all**

The second annual **Indigenous Peoples' Day Gathering** sponsored by the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network, the Beloved Community Commission of Western Massachusetts and the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries of Massachusetts, will take place on *Monday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.* at All Saints Church in Worcester. The day will include a focus on sacred listening and responding, with lunchtime conversations and a worship service. In addition, a formation opportunity for children and opportunities for advocacy will be featured. All are welcome. [Register here](#).  
*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

*Liturgical and land acknowledgment resources available*

The diocesan [Racial Justice Commission](#) has collected several **liturgical resources for Indigenous Peoples' Day and other occasions**, along with **recommendations and resources on land acknowledgements**. All are available on the diocesan website [here](#).

*Province I network's book study series continues in November*

The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network's book discussion series continues** on Zoom on *Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7-8:30 p.m.*, with a discussion of [This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving](#) by David J. Silverman. Register to participate [here](#). Upcoming sessions are scheduled for *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). All are welcome to participate.  
*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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**New ecumenical & inter-religious officer named**

Bishop Alan M. Gates has appointed the Rev. Dr. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College, to serve as an ecumenical and interreligious officer for the diocese, together with Jane C. Redmont who has served in the role since 2018.

As officers, they serve as official representatives of the diocese at ecumenical and interreligious events, provide updates to the Diocesan Council and the wider diocese on important developments in relationships with religious companions and partners, keep track of official actions of The Episcopal Church which may affect local partnerships, and provide advice to the bishops and resources and encouragement to congregations. They also co-chair the diocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.

"I am honored to serve with the people of the diocese in this capacity. In our increasingly polarized age, finding ways for communities of faith to work together for the common good is vitally important," Joslyn-Siemiatkoski said. "The Diocese of Massachusetts has long supported the work of ecumenical and interreligious relations and I am excited to collaborate with my colleague Jane Redmont as the next chapter of that history unfolds."

Read the full announcement [here](#).

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## **NEWS & EVENT NOTES:**

- **Annual Enrollment**—the period when eligible employees can make changes to their enrollment in medical and dental insurance without a qualifying event—**is Oct. 11-Nov. 1.**

The Church Pension Group (CPG) has decided to switch dental insurance providers for 2024. **This means that all employees who would like dental insurance in 2024 must log on to the CPG portal to select their desired plan.** Any employee who does not select a dental plan for 2024 will not have access to that insurance for the new plan year. CPG will send reminder e-mails to all currently enrolled employees who have not yet selected a dental plan to make sure they remember to do so. More details about the new dental insurance provider are available on the [CPG Delta Dental microsite](#).

CPG will be sending e-mails to all enrolled members with information on how to make their choices for next year. Any employees who are eligible but not currently enrolled should contact Nathaniel Fasman, Human Resources Administrator, at [nfasman@diomass.org](mailto:nfasman@diomass.org) if they would like to enroll in health or dental insurance for 2024. The Explanations of Benefits & Coverage for the medical and dental plans are available on CPG's website [here](#). To request a copy of the new rates for 2024, or if there are any other questions, contact Nathaniel Fasman at [nfasman@diomass.org](mailto:nfasman@diomass.org).

Diocesan policies for congregations to provide health insurance to employees can be found in the [Compensation and Benefits Guidelines](#).

- **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](http://www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/rooted-in-abundance-2023). The password is: Jeremiah 17:8  
*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant ([braiche@diomass.org](mailto:braiche@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).*

- A **Planned Giving Webinar**, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Development and the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), on *Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.*, will focus on using ECF's Planned Giving on Demand toolkit to set up a planned giving program for your congregation. James W. (Jim) Murphy from the Episcopal Church Foundation will aim to demystify planned giving and explain how it differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns. Both congregations with existing planned-giving ministries and those looking to establish one will benefit from this webinar. Participating congregations will leave the webinar with a plan of action as well as receive a complimentary copy of ECF's Planned Giving On Demand toolkit. Register in advance for the webinar [here](#).  
*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant ([braiche@diomass.org](mailto:braiche@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).*
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- **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](#) if planning to participate, 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](mailto:admin@ecmteam.us).

- Old North Illuminated will present **“Their Chosen Faith: Women of Color in the 19th-Century Episcopal Church,”** an online talk by **Dr. Jaimie Crumley**, on *Thursday, Oct. 19, 7-8:30 p.m.*

Starting in the 1780s, many northern states either abolished slavery (in the case of Massachusetts) or promised enslaved people their gradual emancipation. While coercion continued to define the lives of free people of color, the end of slavery offered more opportunities for them to explore their faith, and some women and men of African descent made Episcopal churches in the urban North (including Old North Church) their spiritual homes. In her talk, Crumley will discuss how the dynamic between women of African descent and Episcopal churches in the urban North shifted after the American Revolution.

All are welcome. Find more information and registration [here](#).

- 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.

- The Rev. Dr. Hee An Choi, Clinical Associate Professor of Practical Theology at BU’s School of Theology, will be presenting **“Can You See Me?: Challenges of Asian Americans/Immigrants as the Third Other.”** This talk will take place on *Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. All are welcome to this special event, hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander Americans of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Register [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Chitral de Mel ([cdemel1771@aol.com](mailto:cdemel1771@aol.com)) or Grace Knowles ([booker04@msn.com](mailto:booker04@msn.com)).*

● On *Saturday, Nov. 4*, the **St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer is hosting Dr. Rowan Williams**, former archbishop of Canterbury and prominent theologian, whose subject will be “The Learning Church: Theology and Christian Maturity.” The event will be hosted at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston *from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*, with Williams speaking at 10 a.m. and available for questions and discussion until noon. He will join the event virtually from his home in Wales.

The full day at the cathedral will be a time to grow in community, learn with Williams and one another and be resourced for the task of forming disciples in congregations. The day will also include Eucharist, lunch and an afternoon workshop on “Becoming the Learning Church Locally,” during which participants will have the opportunity to develop avenues to faithfully live together in congregations as people who seek to know and love God and neighbor through maturity and discipleship.

Those unable to attend in person can attend Williams’s talk and Q&A online (the afternoon events are in-person only). Find details and registration at [www.stpaulboston.org/rowanwilliams](http://www.stpaulboston.org/rowanwilliams).

In preparation, there will be an online discussion of Williams’s book *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief* on *Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.* Register [here](#) for the Oct. 18 book study. *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:**

● **Grow in gratitude this fall:** The [United Thank Offering](#) is making available free resources to help individuals, families, Sunday school classes and groups focus on gratitude throughout November. Materials include: 30 days of text reminders to practice gratitude, a gratitude calendar, a Thanksgiving Day liturgy and activities, bulletin inserts, gratitude journals and children’s sermon prompts. They are all available for downloading [here](#).

● **UTO invites 2024 annual grant applicants:** The United Thank Offering (UTO) has announced the availability of its annual grants for 2024, focusing on projects that welcome and include “the stranger.” Each diocese may only submit one grant application, so it is recommended that those planning to apply contact Martha Gardner (as below) by early December. A diocesan committee needs time to review applications and make a recommendation to the bishop before the churchwide UTO deadline of Jan. 19.

More information—including criteria for applicants, sample budgets and timelines, and forms—is available online [here](#) in English and Spanish. In addition, informational webinars will be held throughout the fall, as well as monthly open office hours for UTO staff to work directly with applicants on their materials. See dates 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).*

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- Episcopal institutions are invited to apply for **churchwide evangelism grants** to support local and regional efforts to grow Episcopal ministries, resources and gatherings. The application deadline is *Oct. 13*. The grant application, criteria, requirements, budget information and more are available online [here](#) in English, Spanish and French.

The grants committee will consider proposals for up to \$2,000 for individual faith communities and up to \$8,000 for multichurch, diocesan, provincial and other regional collaborations. A total of \$125,000 is available for this funding cycle. The 2023 grant focus is on evangelism initiatives that minister across barriers.

The Episcopal Evangelism grants program began in 2017 in response to the 2015 General Convention's increased investment in evangelism. The program is coordinated by the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Mission Within The Episcopal Church in collaboration with evangelism staff.

## **GRANTS & LOANS:**

- The application and program information for diocesan **2024 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 20, 2023*, for sabbaticals in 2024; award decisions will be announced by *Nov. 17, 2023*. *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)), Sabbatical Grant Committee.*

- **Global Partnership Grants** are now available. Two types of grants are available to churches, schools and organizations affiliated with the Diocese of Massachusetts:
  - **Companion Relationship Grants** help launch or sustain relationships between people of this diocese and partners around the world. Grants are limited to one grant per year for a maximum of five years, with a maximum grant of \$12,000 in the launch year and \$6,000 in succeeding years.

- **Sustainable Development Grants** are designed to strengthen existing relationships where a particular development opportunity aligns with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Grants are limited to one grant per year of up to \$25,000, with a maximum of three grants per project, or a maximum total grant of \$75,000.

Both grants require matching funds from the Diocese of Massachusetts partner, with the amount defined by the partner's budget size. Find guidelines and application links for each of these programs [here](#).

Questions about which grant is more suitable to further your partnership may be directed to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403) or the Rev. Canon Bill Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary, ([bparnell@diomass.org](mailto:bparnell@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 205). Questions related to submission of a grant application may be directed to the Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants ([mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

*fyi / Oct. 4, 2023*

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its Sept. 16 retreat, Diocesan Council:

Voted to approve the proposed budget of revenue and expenses for 2024, including individual parish and mission assessments and approved adjustments for 2024, to be presented to the Diocesan Convention for its consideration and action.

**Next Council Meeting:** *Thursday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

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

## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

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

### **Central Region**

*Regional Canon Gregory Perez  
[gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)*

### **Northern and Western Region**

*Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)  
(until Jan. 1, 2024, while  
Canon Martha Hubbard is on  
sabbatical)*

### **CLERGY CHANGES:**

**The Rev. Kate Bast** began serving as bridge priest at St. Peter's Church in Weston on Sept. 27

**The Rev. C.J. Coppersmith** is now serving as the assistant rector of Trinity Church in Concord.

### **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.*

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

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

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

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

### **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

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7***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.)  
None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.  
WESTON, St. Peter's Church full-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:**

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

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

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:** *None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*

[BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church](#) full time  
[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  
[SANDWICH, St. John's Church](#) full time  
[WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah](#) full time

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

[PLYMOUTH, Christ Church](#) full 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  
 MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church full 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 November issue is **Wednesday, Oct. 25 at noon.** E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).