



Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

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Bishops call for Jerusalem Offering, prayer, advocacy & learning

“As we enter into the sacred season of Advent, our hearts are heavy at the continuing devastation, trauma and grief in the Holy Land. We call upon all our people and congregations to pray fervently, and to participate in a special **Jerusalem Christmas Offering** along with opportunities for advocacy and learning,” Bishop Alan Gates and Bishop Carol Gallagher said in a Nov. 30 letter to the diocese. Find the full letter [here](#).

The bishops ask congregations to conduct an ingathering according to their own timetable and method. Aggregated gifts, payable to the Diocese of Massachusetts and earmarked for Jerusalem Christmas Offering, may be sent to *Jerusalem Christmas Offering, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111* through Jan. 6, when the ingathering will be forwarded through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Congregations or individuals wishing to make their offering online can do so via www.diomass.org/give-now.

Among the prayer, advocacy and learning resources featured in the bishops’ letter are these upcoming events of note:

- **Online conversation with Archdeacon Paul Feheley**, Presiding Bishop’s Partnership Officer for the Middle East, on *Friday, Dec. 15 at noon* (find details and register [here](#)); and
- **Online book discussions**, one to share and discuss Middle East book suggestions, on *Thursday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.*, and another to discuss *The General’s Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine* by Miko Peled, on *Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.* (sign up [here](#)).

Diocesan profile and bishop nomination process launch

*Online education opportunities
for diocesan community:
Dec. 14 and Jan. 24*

The Nominating Committee for the election of the diocese’s next bishop has published a diocesan profile and is, as of Dec. 5, accepting nominations (until *Dec. 30, 2023*) and applications (until *Jan. 13, 2024*). The profile is available at www.diomass.org/bishop-search/profile. Nomination and application instructions are contained within the profile.

The Nominating Committee also invites all members of the diocese to **two online education opportunities**:

- *Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.*: Diocesan Profile Overview
 - *Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.*: What is the Role of a Bishop?
- Registration, [here](#), is required to receive the Zoom links.

Questions may be directed to the Nominating Committee at co-chairs@mabishopsearch.org. Visit www.diomass.org/bishop-search for more information and updates as they become available.

**Prompt attention needed
for 2024 Leadership
Report process soon to
be underway**

● **Leadership Report process for 2024:** As soon as possible in the new year is when congregations need to submit their annual Leadership Report which includes the Diocesan Convention Lay Delegate Certification Form. Congregations are asked to submit their report within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons ([Canon 2.2](#)) and no later than *Friday, March 1*. **As there will be a bishop election on May 18, 2024, it's imperative that congregations submit delegate data in a timely manner.** Be on the lookout for communiqués regarding the leadership report process. The information provided through this process is critical to ensure that important diocesan information reaches congregations' current leaders in the upcoming year.

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

**Registration is open
for 2024 Ministry
Discernment Conference**

Registration is now open for the **2024 Ministry Discernment Conference** offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry, to be held online on *Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.* This online conference will provide an in-depth look at the 2024 edition of the Ministry Discernment Handbook and give potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts as they consider whether their call is to ordained ministry. **Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2024 should attend the conference**, along with a sponsoring priest and at least one member of the congregation's discernment committee.

Other potential members of discernment committees are also welcome, though it is hoped that the composition of the committee can grow and change with the insights gained at the conference.

Click [here](#) for guidelines for setting up a congregation discernment committee. It is also hoped that sponsoring congregations will take advantage of [this anti-bias tool](#) either in assembling a discernment committee or by discernment committee members as they begin their work with an inquirer.

Inquirers are encouraged to invite family members to join them and bring their questions to the inquirers' break-out rooms. Break-out rooms will be available in English and Spanish.

Pre-registration online is required. Registration is open, [here](#), through *Feb. 1*.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations (edie@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 514).

**Priesthood ordinations
scheduled**

The diocesan community's prayers and presence are invited for these upcoming scheduled ordinations to the priesthood:

- **The Rev. Kevin Vetiach** on *Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.*, at the [Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston](#);
- **The Rev. Lisa Faber Ginggen** on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.*, at [St. James's Church in Groveland](#);
- **The Rev. Paul Keene** on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.*, at [Christ Church in Short Hills, N.J.](#);

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- **The Rev. Michael Thompson** on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m.*, at [St. John's Church in Newtonville](#);
- **The Rev. Keith Nelson, SSJE** on *Tuesday, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.*, at the [Society of St. John the Evangelist Monastery in Cambridge](#);
- **The Rev. Joshua Pdraig (Paddy) Cavanaugh** on *Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10:30 a.m.* at [All Saints Church in Richmond, Va.](#);
- **The Rev. Eva Ortez** on *Saturday, Jan. 13 at 3:30 p.m.* at [St. Stephen's Church in Boston](#); and
- **The Rev. Maxwell Sklar** on *Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m.* at [St. Peter's-San Pedro Church in Salem](#).

Please contact the hosting congregation or community directly about service details and use the website links above for livestream and contact information.

Clergy Professional Development Days set for 2024

Registration is now open, [here](#), for the 2024 Clergy Professional Development Days, offered in two parts, with each part held four times between January and March.

Part I is a workshop on how to avoid anti-Judaism in preaching and worship during Holy Week, led by the Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski. All clergy are encouraged to take advantage of this workshop. **Part II is a Safe Church Review session** which fulfills the refresher requirement, along with attendance at a Part I workshop and completion of assigned online training, for those clergy who are due for one this year. Clergy may choose to attend the segments in any order and in any combination:

Saturday, Jan. 13 at Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester:

- Part I Workshop: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Part II Safe Church Review: 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 at Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill:

- Part I Workshop: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Part II Safe Church Review: 1-3 p.m.

Monday, March 4 at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion:

- Part I Workshop: 1-3:30 p.m.
- Part II Safe Church Review: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12 on Zoom:

- Part II Safe Church Review: 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13 on Zoom:

- Part I Workshop: 5:30-8 p.m.

Due to the timeliness of the subject matter covered in this year's workshop, dates have been scheduled in the first quarter of the year and prior to Holy Week. Clergy who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church Training renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org.

A note about online registration: The current system has limits when it comes to multi-date events; once registered, please disregard the main event date and "Add to Calendar" features in the confirmation e-mail and refer to the bottom of that message for your session selection details.

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

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- The **2024 Confirmation schedule** is available [here](#), and registration is open for these services. While most congregations will choose to attend a Confirmation service in or near their deanery, they are welcome at any of the services. Candidates should be registered at least a month in advance of the service. To register candidates for these services, contact Brad Rothrock, Cathedral Administrator, at brothrock@diomass.org.
 - **Congregational Consultants can help:** The time of year is approaching to set congregational budgets, review clergy compensation, plan annual meetings and close out the congregation finances. The diocesan Congregational Consultants have helpful videos on these and other matters. Click [here](#) for more information. Requests for consulting services should be referred to Edward Rewolinski and Betsy Blagdon at diiconsultants@diomass.org.
 - **Journey this Advent with the seven historically Black churches** in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and discover the spirit of peace, love, joy and hope during the season of preparation for the coming of Christ. This series of online programs is open to all, and takes place on *Wednesdays at 7 p.m. through Dec. 20*. Find more details [here](#).
 - **“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”:** This online Advent retreat on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m.–noon*, takes its name from the opening line of a 15th-century hymn attributed to Thomas à Kempis. Guided by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, those gathered will enjoy a morning of listening, prayer and conversation, opening to the presence of Divine Love. The time will include presentations, guided meditation and gathering in small groups.
All are welcome to join this fourth annual Advent retreat, free and open to all, and sponsored by both Episcopal dioceses in Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. Register [here](#).
 - **Season of Epiphany Dinner for BIPOC Episcopal Community:** Come join in this coming season of hope, to witness to justice and joy and the gift of community at the beginning of a new year together. The BIPOC Support Committee of the Racial Justice Commission invites all BIPOC Episcopal clergy and lay people to dinner on *Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m.*, at St. Peter’s Church in Cambridge. RSVP online [here](#) by Jan. 3.
Please share this invitation with others in this community who would enjoy participating, or, forward names and e-mail addresses so that an invitation can be extended directly.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).
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- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network's book discussion series continues** on Zoom on *Wednesday, Jan. 10*, (*Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War* by Lisa Brooks) and *March 13* (*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 or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered via Zoom on two consecutive weeknights (you must attend both): *Tuesday, Jan. 16* and *Wednesday, Jan. 17, 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 or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened by the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries invites all to save the date to join for a **pilgrimage to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center** in Mashantucket, Conn., on *Thursday, March 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* Lunch is included, and a transportation option is available. Cost is \$10, with scholarships available. Find registration information [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Joint Budget Committee of the Executive Council will hold **open hearings via Zoom to receive feedback from the wider church on the 2025-2027 Episcopal Church working budget**. The working budget presented to the Episcopal Church Executive Council is available publicly [here](#) for review and input.

Register to be a speaker or listener at the Zoom hearings, to be held on *Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.* Register for the hearings [here](#). Written responses regarding the budget can be e-mailed to BudgetCommittee@episcopalchurch.org.

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites applicants for Episcopal delegates ages 19 and up to **represent The Episcopal Church in person and virtually at the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNC68)** in New York City, *March 11-22*. Applications are due by *Dec. 15*. Find all criteria and applications online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and additional information [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; applications are due to Martha Gardner (contact details below) no later than *Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.* 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 are being offered, as well as open office hours for UTO staff to work directly with applicants on their materials. Find details [here](#).

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Actions from the Dec. 7 Diocesan Council meeting will be reported in the January issue of *fyi*.

Next Council Meeting: *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 19-20*, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. 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. Melissa Howell began as rector of Christ Church in Plymouth on Dec. 3.

The Rev. Thomas Ortung began as priest-in-charge at St. Michael’s Church in Marblehead on Nov. 15.

The Rev. Noble Scheepers began as interim rector at St. Cyprian’s Church in Roxbury on Oct. 15.

The Rev. Moses Sowale concluded his ministry at Grace Chapel in Brockton on Nov. 26.

The Rev. Stephen Voysey began as interim priest at St. Mark’s Church in Burlington on Dec. 1.

DEACONS ON THE MOVE:

The Rev. Margaret Lias began serving at the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Waban on Oct. 22.

The Rev. Michael Melendez began serving at St. Peter’s-San Pedro Church in Salem on Oct. 27.

The Rev. H. Mark Smith began serving at St. Mark’s Church in Dorchester and St. Bartholomew’s Church in Cambridge on Dec. 3.

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Central RegionRegional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@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.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*
DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church 3/4 time**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church: [Curate/Assistant Rector](#)
WABAN, Parish of the Good Shepherd: [Assistant to the Rector](#)**Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org
*(until Jan. 1, 2024, while
Canon Martha Hubbard is on
sabbatical)***CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore
LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church
READING, Church of the Good Shepherd
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
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.*
LOWELL, St. Anne's Church and St. John's Church,
full-time collaboration
WESTON, St. Peter's Church *full-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.*

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*Continued from page 7***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

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

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

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

[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time

[HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church](#) 1/2 time

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church

HOLBROOK, St. John's Church

SANDWICH, St. John's 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.*

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

DUXBURY, St. John the Evangelist Church: [Curate](#)

Clergy Supply List: To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at jcollen@diomass.org.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. **The deadline for the January 2024 issue is earlier than usual because of the holidays.** The deadline for the January issue is **Wednesday, Dec. 13 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

Find the newsletter **deadline schedule for 2024** [here](#).