



Wednesday, April 3, 2024

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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Registration is open for May 18 Electing Convention

Registration is now open for the special Diocesan Convention to elect the 17th bishop diocesan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, to take place on *Saturday, May 18* at Trinity Church in Boston. All attendees must pre-register [here](#).

While the electing convention is open to all in the diocesan community, priority seating will be given to voting members and those with assigned credentials. Non-voting attendees will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis and as space allows. All voting will take place in person.

Preliminary details were e-mailed to clergy and delegates on March 19 and also are available, along with any subsequent updates, at www.diomass.org/electing-convention-2024. Questions may be e-mailed to convention@diomass.org.

Meet-and-Greets scheduled with bishop nominees

Learn more about the preliminary slate of nominees at www.diomass.org/bishop-search/bishop-nominees. Once the petition process is complete, the Standing Committee will announce the final slate.

The Transition Committee has scheduled a series of open meetings around the diocese *May 7-11*, giving the people of the diocese an opportunity to meet and learn more about the nominees for election as the diocese's 17th bishop diocesan. All are invited to attend, particularly those who are voting members of Diocesan Convention. The Meet-and-Greets will take place on:

- *Tuesday, May 7, 7-8:30 p.m.* at All Saints' Parish, Ashmont in Dorchester;
- *Wednesday, May 8, 10-11:30 a.m.* at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable;
- *Wednesday, May 8, 7-8:30 p.m.* at St. Thomas's Church in Taunton;
- *Thursday, May 9, 2-3:30 p.m.* at Christ Church in Needham;
- *Friday, May 10, 7-8:30 p.m.* at Christ Church in Andover (with childcare); and
- *Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* on Zoom (with special Zoom rooms for youth and young adults, as well as for all others).

Additionally, on *Thursday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, there will be a "Coffee & Conversations with Clergy, Postulants and Candidates" session at St. Paul's Church in Dedham.

Details about Zoom access and other updates will be posted at www.diomass.org/bishop-search/meet-greets, where flier and graphic files are also available for sharing with congregations.

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Have a question for the nominees? The Transition Committee invites people from across the diocese to submit questions in advance via an online form for the nominees to respond to at the Meet-and-Greets. The committee will review submissions and choose several that best represent the themes that emerge. The same questions will be asked at each meet-and-greet session. The committee invites questions by April 8 [here](#).

The Transition Committee also is seeking applications from those who are interested in serving as moderators for the Meet-and-Greets. **Moderators are needed** for in-person sessions. A Zoom moderator and technical assistant are also needed. Those who are interested in serving as a moderator may submit their name and contact information, along with a paragraph detailing their experience, to DioMassQuestions@gmail.com. Please apply by April 8.

***Ingatherings for 2024
Bishops' Annual Appeal
invited in Eastertide***

The 2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal is an invitation to everyone to join in deepening covenants formed as the Diocese of Massachusetts. A goal of \$200,000 has been set for the 2024 appeal, in support of shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation.

With gratitude to those communities that sponsored a Bishops' Annual Appeal Ingathering during Lent, the bishops invite those who have not yet participated to consider scheduling an ingathering in Eastertide. Materials 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).

***Registration is still open
for Clergy Conference
and banquet honoring
Bishop Gates***

There's still time for clergy to register for the annual **Clergy Conference** to be held *Monday-Tuesday, April 29-30* at the Devens Common Center in Devens. Registration is available [here](#). The program offered by this year's guest presenter—author, columnist and theologian [Debie Thomas](#)—will focus on biblical themes of lament, renewal, transition, hope and good news drawing on the lectionary texts for Pentecost Sunday. There will also be opportunities to meet in affinity groups or visit the nearby Icon Museum and Study Center. A tentative agenda is available [here](#).

All clergy are invited to attend a special reception and banquet on Monday evening, April 29 giving thanks for the episcopate of Bishop Alan Gates. Registration is available at no fee for diocesan clergy and a guest independently from conference attendance.

Those who would like to share fliers or materials with clergy during the conference (via the Virtual Resource Table and screen announcements during breaks) may forward them (as .JPEG, PowerPoint slide or PDF) to Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org. *FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).*

**NEWS & EVENT
NOTES:**

- **Training opportunity for clergy, officers, vestry members and treasurers—especially those new to the positions:** For many years, the diocesan Congregational Consultants ran Congregational Business Practices Workshops to educate congregational leaders about their responsibilities for the prudential (business) matters of their churches. After four long years, these in-person workshops will return in May or June.

A four-hour curriculum will be presented on several Saturday mornings at locations around the diocese. It covers vestry duties, bookkeeping and accounting, safeguarding of assets, and administrative responsibilities such as the Parochial Report and clergy compensation. **Consultant coordinators Edward Rewolinski and Betsy Blagdon need to hear from those who are interested so that they can plan enough sessions.** If online training in shorter sessions is preferable, please let them know that as well. They can be reached at dioconsultants@diomass.org.

- The rescheduled diocesan **Absalom Jones Service** will be celebrated on *Sunday, April 7 at 4 p.m.* at St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury. Bishop Alan Gates will preside, and the Rev. James Hairston will preach. All are welcome.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- **Retreat for formation colleagues:** Are you—lay or clergy, volunteer or paid—involved in providing formation for children, youth, adults and/or intergenerational groups in your congregation? If so, consider joining colleagues at a retreat on *Thursday, April 11* at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington. The space is reserved from *10 a.m. to 7 p.m.* so that people can attend depending on their work schedule. There will be time for conversation, quiet time, prayer and fellowship. RSVP to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org.

- The **15th annual International Concert to benefit Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)** will take place on *Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m.* at Trinity Church in Topsfield. All are invited to join RIM for an evening of music from some of the area's international choirs and groups. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.r-i-m.net or at the door.

RIM supports the Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened by the diocesan Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries.

- The Creation Care Justice Network welcomes all on *Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*, to join for an **Earth Day celebration** hosted by St. Mark's Church in Southborough. It's being organized as a day of fellowship, learning and celebration to mark the conclusion of the pilot phase of "[An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#)," a new initiative from the dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massa-

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chusetts to equip churches for deep and broad creation care work.

The celebration will feature presentations by Mary Evelyn Tucker, co-founder and co-director of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, and, joining virtually, environmentalist and 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben and *Braiding Sweetgrass* author Robin Wall-Kimmerer. The day will conclude with a celebratory Eucharist. Registration is open, [here](#).

● **“Generation to Generation: Talking with Younger Adults about the Next Episcopate in the Diocese of Massachusetts”:**

A panel discussion with leaders in their 20s, 30s and 40s will be offered on *Monday, April 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.* on Zoom, for clergy and lay delegates to the special convention to elect the 17th bishop diocesan of Massachusetts. Non-voting members of the convention are also welcome to attend.

The event is sponsored by the QTPOC Church at The Allston Abbey, the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard and the Harvard Divinity School Episcopal/Anglican Fellowship, the Anglican/Episcopal Community of Learning at Boston University School of Theology and CRECHE.

In the panel discussion, lay and clergy leaders in their 20s through 40s from across the diocese will share their dreams, hopes and concerns for this next chapter of diocesan life together. The event organizers say that, as many congregations age, church attendance continues to decline and many congregations no longer have large cohorts of members under age 50, it is important that voting members of the convention, especially those aged 60-plus, have an opportunity to hear from this group. There will be time for Q&A. Register [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Dr. Regina Walton (rwalton@hds.harvard.edu).

● The **Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Poor People's Campaign** invites participation in upcoming online conversations:

• **“Open House”** on *Wednesday, May 1, 7-8:30 p.m.*, to celebrate the March 2 assembly at the State House in Boston, go over what the Poor People's Campaign is about and The Episcopal Church's connection to it, discuss upcoming ways to get involved (voter registration efforts and the June 15 assembly in Washington, D.C.) and make connections with others involved in social justice advocacy. Register for the Zoom link [here](#).

• **Book discussion** on *Monday, May 20, 7-8:15 p.m.*, about *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. Although reading the book is encouraged, it is not required. Anyone who wants to learn more about the causes of poverty and the Poor People's Campaign is welcome to attend. Register for the Zoom link [here](#).

E-mail MAPPCEN@gmail.com with questions or to be added to the e-mail list to receive a monthly newsletter and periodic updates.

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild will hold its Annual Meeting and Luncheon** on *Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at St. John's Church in Saugus, with Bishop Alan Gates as celebrant and luncheon guest speaker. RSVPs by April 20 will be appreciated. Those who are new to this ministry at their church and have questions about membership may contact Diane Grondin at dmgrondin@comcast.net or Louise Gant at gantlouise20@gmail.com.

- Even as Life Together begins preparing for its sabbath year from July 2024 to June 2025, the current 2023-2024 cohort of fellows invites the broader diocesan community to join them and their partners at St. Mark's Church in Dorchester on *Saturday, May 4, 1-4 p.m.*, for the **second annual Dorchester Community Resource Fair**, to be held on the front lawn of St. Mark's Church. All are welcome to attend.

This family-friendly event will include activities for kids, food and a variety of local organizations providing information and services to the entire neighborhood. The afternoon will also include live gospel music performances by members of both the St. Mark's congregation and the Life Together community.

Book donations are still being accepted for the St. Mark's Life Together Little Free Library in front of the church, which will be unveiled on May 4 at the Dorchester Community Resource Fair. Requested books can be shipped directly via this [Amazon Wishlist](#). To recommend a book that is not on this list, e-mail titles to Life Together fellows Olivia Stanley (stanleyo@diomassintern.org) and Nalitza Valentin (valentinn@diomassintern.org).

As Life Together begins its sabbath year, it invites all to save the date, *Saturday, June 1, 4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston for "Tracing the Journey." This event will **celebrate the rich 25-year legacy of Life Together** and its predecessor program, The Micah Project, which have had a transformative impact on the life of this diocese and the broader community. It will also bless the upcoming sabbath season. Whether a friend, alumni, former host site partner or volunteer, everyone's presence will be a gift as the next chapter of Life Together begins.

FOR INFORMATION: Kelsey Rice Bogdan, Life Together Executive Director (kelsey@diomassintern.org).

- All are welcome to join for "**Challenges and Promises of Asian and Asian American Christians**," with the Rev. Dr. Jim Kodera, presenter, on *Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. The gathering is being organized by the Asian Pacific Islander American Episcopalians of the diocese. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. RSVPs and questions are welcome to Grace Knowles at booker04@msn.com.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network:** On *Wednesday, April 10 at 12 p.m.*, all are welcome to join this network's monthly meeting to hear a presentation and engage in discussion with Miskopwaaganikwe Leora Tadgerson. Tadgerson chairs the Executive Council Committee on Native Boarding Schools and Advocacy (more information [here](#)) and will report on the committee's work. Contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org for the Zoom meeting information.
- There will be a meeting of the **Province I Conference** on *Wednesday, May 29, 5-9 p.m.*, over Zoom. Please join for a gathering of provincial ministry networks, a discussion with 2024 General Convention deputies and the election of a clergy representative to the Episcopal Church Executive Council. This meeting is open to all Episcopalians and ministry partners in the seven dioceses of New England. More information, registration and a call for nominees will be coming soon (province1.org/conference). E-mail questions to coordinator@province1.org.
- Though Life Together, the [Episcopal Service Corps](#) program in the Diocese of Massachusetts, will be on sabbath for the 2024-2025 program year, **applications are open** now for eight other programs across the country for young adults ages 21-32. If a young adult in your congregation or community wants to go deeper in faith and service next year, encourage them to consider the Episcopal Service Corps. For more information or to apply, contact Kelsey Rice Bogdan, Life Together Executive Director (kelsey@diomassintern.org), or visit episcopalservicecorps.org/apply.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **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 for 2024 is May 13; notification of award decisions will be made by June 10. Find the 2024 grant materials [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Diocesan (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).
 - The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council encourages congregations, organizations and networks in the Diocese of Massachusetts to apply for **Wicked Good Idea Microgrants** of up to \$2,500 to take on a ministry idea in their mission settings. The application is available [here](#). Questions may be e-mailed to missionstrategy@diomass.org.
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- Remaining and updated due dates for the **2024 Mission Initiatives grant reporting and application process** are as follows:
 - Existing grantees seeking to apply for the next (budget year 2025) grant round must apply and submit reports by *May 30*. The online application and reporting forms for existing grantees are available [here](#). A recorded report is also due by *June 20*.
 - For those who have never received Mission Initiatives grant funding: \$30,000 has been set aside for new applicants for funding in 2024. The application and guidelines can be found [here](#). Applications are due by *April 30*.

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its March 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard updates from Bishop Gates and Bishop Gallagher.

Heard a report from the diocesan development consultant, the Rev. Brian Raiche, about the Allston Abbey Campaign.

Heard a report from the Assessment Coordinating Committee.

Was asked for volunteers to form an Evangelism Working Group.

Heard a report from the Racial Justice Commission.

Voted to approve the 2025 assessment formula.

Heard an update from the secretary, Julie Shea, about the upcoming special Diocesan Convention to elect the 17th bishop diocesan.

Heard a report from the Executive Committee.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

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. Brandon Ashcraft begins as priest for outreach at Trinity Church in Boston on May 12.

The Rev. Jonathan T. Eden began as priest-in-charge at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury on Jan. 1.

The Rev. John Gitau began as priest-in-charge of St. John's Church in Holbrook as of Jan. 16.

The Rev. Lise Hildebrant completed her service as bridge priest at St. Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn on March 30. **The**

Rev. Bill Bradbury began as bridge priest there on April 1.

Sarah Neumann has been hired as curate at Christ Church in Cambridge.

The Rev. Dawna Wall is now the priest associate at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

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Central RegionRegional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church
SHARON, St. John's Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church
NORWOOD, Grace Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church](#)**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

BOSTON, Church of the Advent

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.***Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**DANVER, All Saints Church of the North Shore
READING, Church of the Good Shepherd**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**HUDSON, St. Luke's Church
LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church
SHIRLEY, Trinity Chapel
WESTFORD, St. Mark's Church**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*[HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church](#) 1/2 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

AYER, St. Andrew's Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.
WESTON, St. Peter's Church full-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**Marblehead Youth Cooperative Ministry: [Youth minister](#)

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*Continued from page 8***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
is on sabbatical until July 1.

For South Shore and Cape and
Islands deaneries, contact
Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

For Taunton River and Mt. Hope-
Buzzards Bay deaneries, contact
Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

SWANSEA, Christ Church

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

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

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

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

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

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

BROCKTON, Grace Chapel 1/2 time

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

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church *full 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 and Development, at jcollen@diomass.org.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the May issue is **Wednesday, April 24 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

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