



Wednesday, Dec. 4, 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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Join the retirement celebration honoring Bishop Gallagher

Bishop Julia E. Whitworth and the Farewell Committee for the Assistant Bishop warmly invite the diocesan community for a celebration of Bishop Carol Joy W.T. Gallagher on the occasion of her retirement, to be held on *Sunday, Dec. 15* at St. Elizabeth's Church in Sudbury, with open house *from 4 to 6:30 p.m.* and a program beginning at *5 p.m.* RSVP by Dec. 6 [here](#).

Parking is available at the church. Those using public transportation can indicate on the RSVP form if they need a ride from the Riverside stop on the Green "D" Line.

Donations in Bishop Gallagher's honor are invited, [here](#), and will be designated, at her preference, for the Bishop Alan M. Gates African Anglican-Episcopal Mission Center in Everett and the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. A gift of travel funds also will be made for the Gallaghers to enjoy in retirement.

New priests to be ordained

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

- The Rev. Faith Mbuthia on *Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.*, at [Grace Church in New Bedford](#);
- The Rev. Amanda Rice on *Saturday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.* Central, at [Grace Church in Kirkwood, Mo.](#);
- The Rev. Silas Kotnour on *Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.*, at [Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield](#);
- The Rev. Sarah Neumann on *Saturday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m.*, at [Christ Church in Cambridge](#); and
- The Rev. Molly Minnerath on *Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m.*, at [St. Paul's Church in Bedford](#).

Please contact the hosting congregation about service details.

Ministry Discernment Conference to offer broader focus in 2025

Registration is now open for the annual Ministry Discernment Conference, which has a new focus in 2025: "How Is God Calling Me? A Day of Resources for Vocations of All Kinds." Everyone who is interested in discerning calls to ministry in the church and in the world, both lay and ordained, is warmly invited to gather at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston for the 2025 Ministry Discernment Conference on *Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*

This gathering, jointly hosted by the Commission on Ministry and the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer, will feature Bishop Julia Whitworth's reflections on discernment, a panel discussion with people serving in a variety of Christian vocations and an introduction to resources for individual reflection, communal discernment in congregations and churchwide discernment programs.

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After lunch, participants will be invited, in smaller groups, to learn more about the programs that most interest them.

People who want to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts are especially encouraged to attend, along with their sponsoring clergy, potential parish discernment committee members and family members.

The cost to attend this event is \$25 (with financial assistance available if the fee is a hardship). Pre-registration is required.

Registration is open, [here](#), until Jan. 29.

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

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Leadership Report process for 2025:** 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 Leadership Report within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons (Canon 2.2) and no later than *Friday, March 1*.

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, Coordinator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

- **Creation Care Justice Network offers resources, continues discernment:** Updated seasonal resources compiled by the Creation Care Justice Network, offered for use by individuals and congregations, are available at www.diomass.org/creation-care.

Network members recently met with Bishop Julia Whitworth to introduce their ministry and begin to explore the future of this work. Anyone interested in joining is invited to e-mail CreationJusticeEpisMA@gmail.com.

- The **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for 2024-2025**, offered by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, is now available at www.diomass.org/prayer-cycles. In her letter of introduction, Dean Amy McCreath writes, "As you incorporate the diocesan cycle of prayer into your worship life, know that it matters. Know that it is a gift both to the congregations and ministries for which you are praying, and it is a gift to you to be called to such prayer. As we center one another in prayer, we are reminded of the scriptural truth that we need one another, we are called to gift one another and the mission of God will be made manifest as we pray."

FOR INFORMATION: Brad Rothrock, Administrator, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (brothrock@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).

- **“You Are Not Alone: Responding to Grief and Trauma by Building Relationships”:** The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will host this *Dec. 20-22* retreat weekend, structured around Saturday presentations on facing loneliness and isolation; overcoming grief and trauma; and building relationships and social connection.

Retreat co-presenters are the Rev. Bob Davidson, an Episcopal priest and social worker who has served as a hospice chaplain and trauma counselor, and Dr. Anthony Valdini, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Chan School of Medicine. Find registration and information [here](#), or contact the center at info@bchcenter.org or 603-547-3400.

- The [St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer](#) invites all to **“Creatio ex Amore and the Mission of the Church Now”**—an online seminar with the moderator of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, *Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-11 a.m.*

In this time of climate crisis, what difference does faith make? How does our understanding of God, and the meaning of God's creating work, ground and equip us to pray, serve and act in this time? This seminar aims to deepen capacity to preach and teach that “God creates out of love,” and enliven participants for working with their faith communities for God's purposes.

Registrants may choose to explore advance readings, and will be invited to a follow-up conversation, hosted by the Rev. Dr. Kapyra Kaoma, Rector of Christ Church, Waltham, author and theologian, expanding participants' grounding in this topic with wisdom from African Christian theology of creation.

Find details and registration [here](#). Contact tspc@diomass.org with any questions.

- The **annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast** takes place on *Monday, Jan. 20* at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Professor, author and activist Angela Davis will be the keynote speaker. Details and ticket information are online [here](#).

For 55 years, St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and Union United Methodist Church have collaborated to present this memorial breakfast in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The partnership is an incorporated nonprofit organization, which also recognizes extraordinary contributions to diversity and inclusion efforts through service and scholarships.

- **Winter Dinner for BIPOC Episcopal Community:** Come together for fellowship with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) siblings in Christ from across the diocese. The BIPOC Support Committee of the diocesan Racial Justice Commission invites all BIPOC Episcopal clergy and lay people to dinner on *Sunday, Jan. 26, 5-7 p.m.*, at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Boston. RSVP online [here](#) by Jan. 22.

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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).

- **The Phillips Brooks Clericus welcomes those interested in joining.** The group typically meets online on the first Monday of the month from October through May, gathering for fellowship followed by a presentation and discussion of a program by one of the members. The presentations are intended to be timely and relevant, with the purpose of providing intellectual stimulus for ministry. Membership is largely composed of clergy, both active and retired, including those in non-parochial ministries.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Katharine Black, President (katharineblack@gmail.com).

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Episcopal Church Advent and Christmas resources** are available online for use by congregations in sharing the “good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” (Luke 2:10) The resources are available [here](#) and include calendars, cards, curriculum and bulletin inserts; a customizable promotional video; sermons and lesson plans; and more.

- The Faith Formation Network of the New England dioceses that comprise Province I of The Episcopal Church has announced that it is combining its **annual formation conference** with [Forma](#) to offer “the best of both worlds.” The conference, titled “Come Away Together,” will be held *Jan. 27-30* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., and will gather colleagues from across New England over four days to meet and connect with provincial colleagues and participate in Forma workshops and content, as well as have opportunities for informal sharing and learning. Hear from Province I colleagues in [this one-minute video](#) about attending the conference, and find registration information [here](#).

- **Do you know young adults looking for international mission opportunities?:** The Episcopal Church’s Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) is seeking Episcopalians ages 21 to 35 who are interested in international mission engagement. Applications are now being accepted through *Friday, Jan. 31* for 2025 placements. Find more information about the YASC program and application links [here](#).

- The **Episcopal Church Foundation is now accepting 2025 applications to its Fellowship Partners Program.** The program supports lay and clergy leaders, empowering them with resources for advanced academic studies and specialized ministries that strengthen The Episcopal Church's mission and impact. The Fellowship Partners Program aims to nurture leaders at a formative stage, enabling them to contribute in meaningful ways to the church's growth and future. The deadline to apply is *March 11*. Find more information about the program and how to apply at www.ecf.org/programs/fellowship-partners-program.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **UTO invites 2025 annual grant applicants:** The United Thank Offering (UTO) has announced its annual grants for 2025, focused this cycle on water issues. Find information about the kinds of projects which can be funded [here](#).

Each diocese may only submit one grant application, so all applications must be submitted to the Rev. Margaret Lias (as below) **no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 6**. A diocesan committee will then review the applications and make a recommendation to the bishop before the churchwide UTO deadline of Jan. 10.

More information is available online [here](#).

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

- Two diocesan grant programs award funds by vote of deanery assemblies: **Sending Serving grant funds** support programs that enhance the outreach ministries of congregations through new or existing programs. **House of Mercy grant funds** support programs and projects that serve women and children in need. **The 2024 deadline for these deanery grant programs has been extended to Dec. 20.** Find more details [here](#).

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

- The Church Home Society has launched a three-year pilot grant program, allocating up to \$40,000 a year to support **youth ministries in Episcopal churches**. Grant awards will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Applications (form available [here](#)) are due the last day of the month, through April 2025, and they will be reviewed at the following monthly board meeting.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Diocesan Council did not meet in November.

Next Council Meetings: *Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m., via Zoom, and Saturday, Jan. 25, Retreat at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury.*

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator 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](#).

Central Region

Alewife and Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Gregory Perez gperez@diomass.org

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

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Gregory Perez gperez@diomass.org

DEACONS ON THE MOVE:

The Rev. Margaret Lias is taking a leave from her position at the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Waban; Dec. 22 will be her last Sunday.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian’s Church
SHARON, St. John’s Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

[DORCHESTER, All Saints’ Parish, Ashmont](#)
[NORWOOD, Grace Church](#)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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

BURLINGTON, St. Mark’s Church *part-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

None at this time.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

LAWRENCE, Grace Church
SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark’s Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

LYNN, St. Stephen’s Memorial Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

ROCKPORT, St. Mary’s Church

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

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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

DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore *1/2 time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

None at this time.

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Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

SWANSEA, Christ 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:***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

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, or to be added to it, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at jcollen@diomass.org.***NEXT fyi:****fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month; in January, it will be issued on Thursday, Jan. 2. The deadline for the January issue is **Wednesday, Dec. 18 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.Find the newsletter deadline schedule for 2025 [here](#).