



Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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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Bishop's Annual Appeal invites generous giving

The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal is an invitation to strengthen and expand the work to which God calls us. In this year's appeal, Bishop Julia Whitworth highlights for support three areas of diocesan life together: strategic curacies; collaborative ministries; and equipping congregations for growth.

Please promote the Bishop's Annual Appeal locally: Announce it in your congregation and distribute materials directly to your people. Congregations that have not yet designated a Bishop's Annual Appeal Ingathering Sunday are invited to consider doing so on a Sunday now through Eastertide.

Materials have been mailed directly to church offices and are also available at www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal.

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

Deacons available to preach on "Diaconate Sunday" June 15

On Sunday, June 15, the Diocese of Massachusetts, along with other dioceses in New England, will celebrate Diaconate Sunday. Congregations are invited to request a deacon to preach on that day, chosen in proximity to the Sunday when the church celebrates St. Efrem the Syrian, a deacon venerated in both Eastern and Western traditions.

Diaconate Sunday is an opportunity to introduce more congregations to the life and work of deacons. To request a deacon for June 15, contact the Ven. Chris Beukman, Archdeacon for Deployment and Pastoral Care (cbeukman@diomass.org).

Because there are more congregations than deacons, congregations are encouraged to make their requests as soon as possible before May 1 if they would like a deacon to be present with them on June 15.

Church guidelines on interreligious relations commended for study & use

The co-officers for interreligious and ecumenical affairs in the Diocese of Massachusetts have been in touch with diocesan clergy to promote awareness of the guidelines adopted by the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church regarding interreligious, Christian-Jewish and Christian-Muslim relations. The guidelines are commended to the whole church for study and use, and are available [here](#).

Co-officers Jane Redmont (janered@earthlink.net) and Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (d.joslyn-siemiatkoski@bc.edu) are happy to be in contacted if they can be of service in relation to these guidelines.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Audit reminder from the Congregational Consultants:** Now that the Parochial Report has been filed and the Annual Meeting has been held, it is time to prepare for the annual financial audit. According to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, all parishes and missions must complete an annual audit, submitting it to the diocesan Treasurer's Office by Sept. 1. Recorded webinars about the audit process are available [here](#).

Diocesan audit submission procedures have been updated, and only electronic copies of congregations' annual financial audits are now being accepted. Audit packages should be e-mailed to audits@diomass.org. The package should include the auditor's report, findings and recommendations, completed audit checklist, the fiscal year balance sheet and income and expense statement, along with the written response from the vestry to the audit comments and recommendations. With audits due by Sept. 1, it is recommended that congregations schedule their audit now so that it can be completed on time. Questions may be directed to Tom Hamel, Controller (thamel@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 307).

- A second offering of the **workshop for wardens and vestry members** is coming up on *Saturday, April 5, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, via Zoom ([register here](#)). The workshop will be hosted by Canons Kelly O'Connell, Bill Parnell and Greg Perez.

Participants will learn about [An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#); discover how to spend less on buildings and free up resources for mission through the [Community Purchasing Alliance](#); hear about equipping and empowering their congregations with [Invite Welcome Connect](#) resources; explore new and updated Safe Church resources; meet new Regional Canon Marissa Rohrbach; and get acquainted with wardens and vestry members from other churches.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org).

- Join the Evangelism Working Group of Diocesan Council on Zoom for its **"New Models of Episcopal Evangelism Series"**—monthly presentations that celebrate creative examples of evangelism happening in the congregations and worshiping communities of the Diocese of Massachusetts. These ministries are "real, not ideal," and are being shared to inspire, encourage and connect the people of God in the collaborative work of evangelism. There will be time for questions and discussion with presenters in each session.

Upcoming sessions are **"Welcoming the Community In Outside of Sunday Morning with Dover Unplugged,"** presented by Amelia Slawsby and George Motley of St. Dunstan's Church in Dover, on *Tuesday, April 8, 5:30-6:30 p.m.* ([details and register here](#)); and **"Essential Spiritual Practices for Evangelism and Parish Vitality,"** presented by the Rev. Becky Zartman-Carpenter, on *Tuesday, May 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m.* ([details and register here](#)).

To learn more about or join the Evangelism Working Group, e-mail the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock (jlshoock@gmail.com) or the Rev. Dr. Regina Walton (rwalton@hds.harvard.edu).

● **Children's and youth formation leaders in the diocese**, both staff and volunteer, are invited to join the ongoing ministry network meetings focused on supporting this community. The group meets at least monthly, typically on Thursdays, and disseminates resources to its mailing list. To be added to this network list or to share a resource with colleagues, e-mail Bird Treacy, the interim convener of the Children's and Youth Formation Network, and children's ministry coordinator at Christ Church in Needham, at birdinthebellfry@gmail.com. April's meeting will be on *Thursday, April 10 at 3:30 p.m.* on Zoom.

Are you pursuing training or attending a conference as part of your professional development in children's or youth ministry, or maybe you're trying to support parishioners called to serve in formation? If cost is a concern, the Children's and Youth Formation Network may be able to help. E-mail Bird Treacy (birdinthebellfry@gmail.com) with questions about available support.

● **Church Home Society invites Tripp Award nominees:** The [Church Home Society](#) was established in the 1800s by the Diocese of Massachusetts to care for orphans and youth, and is now an independent not-for-profit that funds church and secular organizations that aid underresourced youth. In 2010 the society's trustees created an annual award of \$10,000 in honor of long-time trustee and financial supporter William V. Tripp III. This award recognizes an organization or church that furthers the mission of helping disadvantaged youth. The Church Home Society invites submissions of names of organizations or groups to be considered for the award; e-mail submissions to tchs@diomass.org.

Last year's recipient was Care 4 Kids, a ministry of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans. Other past recipients have been Amazing Grace of Cape Cod, and Trinity Church in Rockland.

● Three Saturday morning **Eucharistic Visitor trainings** are being offered this spring in partnership with the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer. Eucharistic Visitors extend the altar to include those who are homebound or in the hospital. This important pastoral and liturgical ministry is offered by adult lay members of the congregation who are certified by the diocese. In order to be certified, Eucharistic Visitors must complete Safe Church training, be nominated by their priest and attend a diocesan-approved training. Trainings are scheduled in each region of the diocese, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on:

- April 26 at Grace Church in Medford;
- May 3 at St. David's Church in South Yarmouth; and
- May 10 at the Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington.

Registration is available [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org).

- All clergy of the diocese are invited to attend the annual **Clergy Conference** which will take place at the Devens Common Center in Devens, *Monday-Wednesday, April 28-30*. The featured guest presenter, [the Rev. Becca Stevens](#), will lead the program, “Mountains to Molehills: Serving Side by Side, Along Broken Roads and Dreamy Callings,” across four sessions.

Find conference details and registration [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org).

- Registration is open for the **2025 Clergy Professional Development Day**, offered in two parts, with each part held several times: *Saturday, May 17* at Grace Church in New Bedford; *Wednesday, May 21* at St. Peter’s Church in Weston; and *Tuesday, Sept. 23* and *Wednesday, Sept. 24* on Zoom. Find details and registration [here](#).

Part I is a workshop from Braver Angels that all clergy are encouraged to attend. **Part II is a Safe Church Review** for clergy due to refresh Safe Church requirements in 2025. The review fulfills the refresher requirement, along with the Part I workshop and assigned online training. Clergy may attend the segments in any order and combination.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org).

- Episcopal City Mission (ECM) will present a spring offering of **“A Stolen Beam: Essential Conversation and Spiritual Reflection on Reparations for Descendants of Slaves in the U.S.”**

Facilitated by Dr. Constance Holmes and the Rev. Steven Bonsey, this seven-session course of educational engagement and personal reflection, which originated from the Jewish Community of Amherst, examines the historical case for reparations; global and national precedents for reparations; practical proposals for national and local reparations; and theological reflections on reparations from Jewish and Christian sources. The Stolen Beam course has been offered throughout the U.S.; ECM’s offering will incorporate contemplative practices in the Christian wisdom tradition as well as opportunities for discernment in community.

The course takes place on Zoom, weekly on *Tuesdays, April 22-June 3, 7-8:30 p.m.* There is no fee for the course; voluntary contributions to ECM will be gladly accepted. Register [here](#).

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild will gather for its annual meeting** on *Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Christ Church in Quincy. The day includes Holy Eucharist and a luncheon, followed by a business meeting. This year’s celebrant and luncheon speaker will be Bishop Julia Whitworth. Online registration to attend is available [here](#). Those who are new or returning to this ministry at their church and have questions about membership are invited to contact Diane Grondin (dmgrondin@comcast.net) or Louise Gant (lgant20@msn.com).
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- **“What Does It Mean to be Asian American in the Church and Our Society?”:** Asian Pacific Islander American Episcopalians of the diocese are hosting this celebration during Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, to take place on *Saturday, May 17, 3-7 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

The program will include a keynote and panel discussion featuring Bishop Suffragan Allen Shin, Episcopal Diocese of New York; the Rev. Jo Ann Lagman, Missioner of Asia American Ministry of The Episcopal Church; and Dr. Eunil David Cho, Associate Professor, Boston University School of Theology. Holy Eucharist and dinner will follow. All are welcome. Please register by May 10 [here](#).

- **June BIPOC Community Dinner:** The BIPOC Support Subcommittee of the Racial Justice Commission invites all BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) folk in the diocese to come together for a time of fellowship and mutual support over a delicious meal on *Sunday, June 1, 5-7 p.m.*, at the Gates African Anglican-Episcopal Mission Center in Everett. The group will welcome as guests Bishop Julia Whitworth and the Rev. Chris Wendell, Chief of Staff. Registration information will be available soon.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Good Friday Offering supports Middle East ministries:** Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe has invited Episcopalians to support the annual [Good Friday Offering](#), which assists churches, medical programs and schools in the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Find his letter and information and downloadable Good Friday Offering materials in several languages [here](#).

In addition, a concert—an encore presentation recorded in the spring of 2024 at Christ and St. Luke’s Church, Norfolk, Va.—will air online at *noon and 7 p.m. ET on April 18* on The Episcopal Church’s [Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Viewers will have the opportunity to make donations to the offering during the event.

Questions may be directed to Middle East Partnership Officer Paul Feheley at pfeheley@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6222.

- **Enrollment is now open** for [An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#) for the fall of 2025. Worshiping communities that are looking to deepen their engagement around climate justice; have a committed group of at least three people; and are able to commit to monthly meetings between October 2025 and May 2026 are invited to reach out and explore how the Path may be of support. The program is open to all Episcopal communities in the New England dioceses of Province I. Individuals who are eager to offer support to other communities and would like to join the Path’s cohort of companions are also invited to be in touch.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Rachel Field, Project Manager, and Deb Baker, Project Coordinator (episcopalcreationpath@gmail.com).

- **“Revival and Resilience: Worship in a Time of Climate Crisis”:** Join on *Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, for a day of worship, reflection, learning and feasting to explore ways to bring worship tradition alive in a time of climate crisis. Participants will meet at St. Andrew’s Church in Ayer and spend part of the day at a nearby pocket forest.

This one-day regional conference is sponsored by [Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission](#) and open to everyone in Province I and II of The Episcopal Church, as well as the ELCA New England Synod. More information and registration are available [here](#).

Questions may be directed to the Very Rev. Amy McCreath (amccreath@diomass.org).

- The **Episcopal Service Corps** invites young leaders ages 21 to 32 who are interested in community service to [apply online](#), through the end of May, for the 2025-26 program year. Those interested are encouraged to explore which of the corps’s [six programs](#) might be right for them. The Episcopal Service Corps is a network of young adults who commit to four months to a year of transforming themselves and the world through community-building, local collaboration, prayer and action while living in locally organized intentional communities within the U.S. Learn more at <https://episcopalservicecorps.org>.

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 2025 is *May 12*; notification of award decisions will be made by *June 9*. Find the grant materials [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Diocesan* (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).

- **Mission Initiatives Grants:** The **due date for applications from existing grantees** for budget year 2026 is *May 23, 2025*. (The budget for 2025 did not have funding set aside for new ministry applications for this round.)

More information and application guidelines can be found [here](#). The application form can be found [here](#).

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

- **Recipients of 2024 and 2025 deanery House of Mercy or Sending Serving grants need to submit a brief year-end report**, required before they are eligible to receive deanery grant funds in subsequent years. Recipients should use this opportunity to showcase their project and good stewardship of funds. The 2024 report form is available [here](#). The 2025 report form is available [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's three-year pilot grant program is 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:

At its March 20 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Participated in a listening session with consultants from Ministry Architects.

Heard a report from the treasurer, Ted Ts'o, including:

- a motion from the Budget Committee to make amendments to the 2025 Operating Budget, which was approved; and
- a motion to identify and designate funds for the purchase of a bishop's residence, which was approved.

Voted on a motion from the Diocesan Loan Committee to approve an increase in the lending limits for Stokes Loans and Cederholm Green Loans from \$100,000 to \$125,000.

Voted to approve 2025 assessment adjustments for All Saints' Church in Attleboro, St. Paul's Church in Newburyport, St. Paul's Church in Lynnfield, St. Dunstan's Church in Dover and St. Paul's Church in North Andover.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, April 24, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

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

*Regional Canon
Marissa Rohrbach
mrohrbach@diomass.org*

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BEDFORD, St. Paul's Church

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.)*

[NORWOOD, Grace Church](#) 40 percent time

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

DORCHESTER, Parish of All Saints, Ashmont

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

BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *half-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

None at this time.

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*Continued from page 7***Northern and Western Region***Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org***CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**LAWRENCE, Grace Church (*bilingual: Spanish/English*)
SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:*None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** (*Apply directly to parish.*)[LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church](#)[READING, Church of the Good Shepherd](#) 3/4 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.***Southern Region***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.*

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

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***Supply Priest List:** To request a copy of the most up-to-date Supply Priest List, or to be added to it, e-mail David Ames, Administrator for Clergy and Transitions, at dames@diomass.org.***NEXT fyi:****fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the May issue is **Wednesday, April 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.Find the newsletter deadline schedule for 2025 [here](#).