



Wednesday, May 7, 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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Join diocesan witness at June Pride celebrations

Join Episcopalians in a witness for love and joy during Pride celebrations this June. The hope is for the Diocese of Massachusetts to have large and visible delegations of LGBTQ+ people and allies walk, march, sashay (take your pick!) in Pride celebrations across eastern Massachusetts. All are welcome to attend any Pride celebration; and, to have more fun and be with others in the diocese, consider joining one of these:

Central Region deaneries (Alewife, Boston Harbor, Charles River, Neponset River) are encouraged to participate in the Boston Pride for the People parade on *Saturday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m.* (meeting up near Copley Square). Bishop Julia Whitworth will be at this Pride event, riding in a convertible!

Northern and Western Region

- Concord River: Acton-Westford Pride, *Saturday, June 21*
- Merrimack Valley: Newburyport Pride, *Saturday, May 31*;
Lowell Pride, *Saturday, June 7*
- Mystic Valley: TBD
- North Shore: Salem Pride, *Saturday, June 28*;
Topsfield Pride, *Sunday, June 1*

Southern Region

- Cape and Islands: Provincetown Pride, *Saturday, June 7*;
Orleans Pride, *Saturday, June 14*
- Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay: New Bedford Pride, *Saturday, June 7*
- South Shore: Quincy Pride, *Sunday, June 8*
- Taunton River: TBD

Parish banners welcome, and there will be DioMass T-shirts!

Please complete this form to indicate your interest:

<https://tinyurl.com/DioMassPride25>. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Liz Steinhauser at lsteinhauser@diomass.org.

New deacon, transitional deacons and priest to be ordained June 7

The diocesan community's prayers and presence are invited for the upcoming Service of Ordination on *Saturday, June 7, 10:30 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Those to be ordained by Bishop Julia Whitworth include: **Robert Christian**, to the diaconate (sponsored by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Reading), and to the transitional diaconate, **Jocelyn Collen** (St. Paul's Church, Brookline), **Mary Curlew** (St. Paul's Church, Bedford), **Eva Dalzell** (Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston) and **Aidan Stoddart** (Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard). **The Rev. Aaron Ross** also is to be ordained at this service, to the priesthood (sponsored by Christ Church in South Hamilton). All are welcome!

FOR SERVICE INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (cathedral@diomass.org).

Renewed Young Adult Ministry Team invites participation on May 31

The Renewed Young Adult Ministry Discernment Team is hosting a special hybrid retreat on *Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour in Milton, and invites participation.

Since February, the Discernment Team has been gathering to imagine a new, transformative service corps program rooted in the spirit of the former Life Together program and shaped by the evolving needs of young adults today. The vision is to develop a program that reflects the mission of the diocese and nurtures the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of its participants.

The May 31 retreat is an opportunity to hear from the broader diocesan community, as the team works to clarify the vision, mission, impact and key participants of this future initiative. The team invites those who are interested to join in person or online to lend their voice to this important work. RSVP [here](#) by *Tuesday, May 27*. FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Shannon Kelly, Interim Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Formation (skelly@diomass.org).

Deacons available to preach on “Diaconate Sunday” June 15

On *Sunday, June 15*, the Diocese of Massachusetts 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. Efreem the Syrian, a deacon venerated in both Eastern and Western traditions.

To request a deacon for June 15, contact the Ven. Chris Beukman, Archdeacon for Deployment and Pastoral Care (cbeukman@diomass.org). Some 10 congregations have responded so far. Because there are more congregations than deacons, requests are encouraged as soon as possible by May 15 from congregations that would like a deacon to be present with them on June 15.

Registration still open for June Confirmations

Congregations with candidates for Confirmation or Reception that wish to participate in one of the season’s remaining regional Confirmation services are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Upcoming services take place on:

- *Sunday, June 15, 4:30 p.m.* at Grace Church in New Bedford;
- *Saturday, June 21, 10:30 a.m.* at St. Anne’s Church in Lowell (bilingual service in Spanish and English); and
- *Saturday, June 28, 10:30 a.m.* at St. Mark’s Church in Foxborough.

To register candidates, contact Brad Rothrock, Cathedral Administrator (brothrock@diomass.org).

Diocesan Convention resolutions process opens early this year

The resolutions submission process for Diocesan Convention is now open—earlier this year to facilitate wide participation. Guidelines and the resolution submission form are available [here](#).

The submission deadline is *Friday, Sept. 5 by 5 p.m.* However, if a resolution is expected to have budgetary implications, submission by *July 31* is encouraged to allow for the possibility of 2026 diocesan budget funding should the resolution be adopted.

The annual Diocesan Convention will be held *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15* at the Boston Marriott Burlington Hotel in Burlington. Questions may be directed to convention@diomass.org.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Energy efficiency incentives for houses of worship:** MassSave offers incentives, including 75 to 100 percent off the cost of insulation and air sealing, for houses of worship. Those who are interested are invited to contact Jim Nail at Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (by e-mail to jnail@massipl.org), providing him with congregation name and address, and a contact name with e-mail address and phone number. He has developed a set of relationships that allow him to navigate the MassSave process and get quality contractors to sites quickly to do assessments, file for incentives with MassSave and then get the work done. Steve Abdow, Property Stewardship Consultant, is also available to help with questions (sabdow@diomass.org).
 - The final session in the spring series of **Eucharistic Visitor trainings**, offered in partnership with the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer, is coming up on *Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington. Find registration [here](#). Eucharistic Visitors extend the altar to include those who are homebound or in the hospital. In order to be certified, Eucharistic Visitors must complete Safe Church training, be nominated by their priest and attend a diocesan-approved training.
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).
 - **"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](#).
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- **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 Bishop Alan M. 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. **RSVP by May 28** [here](#).
- [The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer](#) is offering its first residential course, **“Finding a Way: Developing Practices Towards Healing Historical Trauma with the Help of the Land and Waterways,”** hosted by the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans, *Friday-Sunday, June 20-22*. Through shared meals, times of reflection and learning, prayer and walking, participants will practice pilgrimage toward healing and leave with experience in the building blocks needed to create a contemplative healing practice in their own contexts and parishes. Find details and sign up to attend (by May 12) [here](#).

CHURCHWIDE:

- **The Church Pension Group (CPG) is switching to all-electronic billing and payments later this year.** This means that CPG will stop sending paper bills and stop accepting paper checks for pensions and insurance products. The current timeline that CPG has provided for this change is August 2025. To make sure that all congregations and institutions continue to have access to the benefits they expect, each will need to have at least one person designated as an administrator in CPG’s MyAdminPortal. This person can either be an “Institution Administrator” with full access to make changes to the roster of current employees, or a “Bill Payer” with access only to bills and the payment system and without ability to make changes to the employee roster.

Congregations that would like to establish an Institution Administrator prior to the roll-out of the new system may contact Nathaniel Fasman (nfasman@diomass.org) to get their account set up. Further information about the process will be made available in a stand-alone e-mail as it becomes available from CPG.

- **“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).

- **Enrollment is 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 explore how the Path may be of support. The program is open to all Episcopal communities in the dioceses of Province I. Those eager to offer support to other communities and who 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).*
- 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. 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](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its April 24 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

- Heard updates from Bishop Whitworth.
- Voted to approve the 2026 assessment formula.
- Had a conversation with the Standing Committee president, Suzanne Owayda, and clerk, the Rev. Daniel Dice.
- Heard an update from the Assessment Coordinating Committee.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, May 15, 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

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@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.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

LAWRENCE, Grace Church *(bilingual: Spanish/English)*

SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

[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

LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church 3/4 time

ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church 1/2 time

SAUGUS, St. John's Church 1/2 time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

None at this time.

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*Continued from page 6***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 June issue is **Wednesday, May 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.Find the newsletter deadline schedule for 2025 [here](#).