fyi

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

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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Registration for Annual Diocesan Convention to Open Mid-August

Online registration will open mid-August for Diocesan Convention, to take place on **Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15, 2025**, at the Boston Marriott Burlington Hotel in Burlington. This year's theme is "The Hope to which we are Called" (from the Letter to the Ephesians). Early registration is encouraged.

- **Submission Deadline for All Convention Materials (other than nominations): 5 pm on Friday, September 5.**
  No late submissions will be accepted after this deadline. This deadline applies to:
  - Applications for admission as a parish or mission of the diocese.
  - Reports from diocesan committees, task forces, or networks.
  - Proposed resolutions.

- **Submission Deadline for Nominations and Supporting Materials: 5 pm on Monday, September 15.**
  - Nomination form (PDF), including 75-word descriptive statement, to be published in the handbook so members of Convention can know something about the nominees.
  - A digital headshot photo, also to be published in the handbook.
  - A 1-minute or shorter video describing your interest in the position and the gifts you can bring to it.

Find details, materials, and deadlines here.

Evensong for the Installation of our Canon to the Ordinary

On Sunday, September 7, at 4:30 p.m. all clergy and laity in our diocese are invited to attend a special service of Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston, at which Bishop Julia Whitworth will install the Rev. Chris Wendell as Canon to the Ordinary in our diocese. The service will be a time to gather in prayer as a diocesan community as the program year begins, enjoy the experience of worshiping in our cathedral, and offer blessing to Canon Wendell as he takes up this new call. The Rev. Canon Tina Pickering, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of New Hampshire, will give a homily; musical selections from the Cathedral Schola and others will enrich our service; and a simple reception will follow. Clergy: no need to bring vestments; just come and enjoy a time for worship, prayer, and celebration of a new call. Please join us!

Season of Creation Observed September 1-October 4

With the September 1-October 4 Season of Creation approaching, there are a variety of ways to engage your congregation. Sign up for the Daily Devotional for the Season of Creation here; this collaborative project provides a daily meditation for each day of the Season of Creation from

authors across Province One. Other ways to become involved are:

- Episcopal Path to Creation Justice now enrolling for fall: Congregations in Province One can sign up by the end of August to explore their unique path. Participating congregations will have a trained companion walking with them as they discern how they can deepen their commitment to caring for creation by praying, learning, acting, and advocating. Path participants will also be in fellowship with each other via monthly Zoom gatherings. Two DioMass congregations have already enrolled, and more are welcome! Congregations interested in participating are invited to contact the project managers, the Rev. Rachel Field and Deb Baker, at episcopalcreationpath@gmail.com.

- The 2025 edition of "Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes" is now available. Created in 2022 and first published for the dioceses of Western Massachusetts and Massachusetts, the liturgical guide has expanded to include a new Daily Office guide for lay-led service and expanded and diversified readings, among other additions and improvements. The guide has been authorized for use in more than 40 dioceses—including Massachusetts—and is available here.

- Join Lawyers 4 Good Governance, September 11, 6-7 pm, for a webinar titled "Sacred Spaces, Sustainable Future: Understanding Clean Energy Tax Credits and Elective Pay for Religious and Faith-Based Organizations." If your church is considering or in the process of installing solar panels, heat pumps, or other clean energy solutions, this webinar is for you! Register here.

2026 Clergy Sabbatical Grant Program – apply now!

Clergy Sabbatical Program: Jesus took himself apart often in his ministry, to pray, to be with God and to be renewed. The Clergy Sabbatical Program sponsored by the bishops seeks to ensure that clergy of the Diocese of Massachusetts have an opportunity for a time of sabbath, a renewal of spirit and a reaffirmation of life with God, as well as opportunities for creativity and discovery for both the clergyperson and the community of ministry with which they serve. More information.

The deadline to submit applications for sabbaticals in 2026 is Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. To apply, please fill out the application here. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator for Governance and Grants, at mlias@diomass.org.

Register Soon for:

Newly forming Clergy Learning Communities!

The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer (TSPC) is offering a **learning community for clergy** in each of the three regions of our diocese. The goal of the learning communities is to provide a space for clergy to pray with and for one another, support one another in centering the call to make disciples in all our congregations, and share resources for bringing theology and deepening prayer in their congregations.

These communities gather via Zoom approximately every six weeks during the program year, focusing on a particular topic each session. The sessions are co-hosted by two people, but the discussion is open and collaborative, rather than driven by one person. Priests and deacons are nurtured by this time to share resources, discuss problems, and explore aspects of faith and formation.

If interested, please contact by Sept. 1:

Central Region: The Rev. Greg Johnston (rector@stjohns02129.org) and The Very Rev. Amy McCreath (amccreath@diomass.org).
Southern Region: The Rev. Dr. Maggie Arnold (marnold@ststephenscohasset.org) and The Rev. Joseph Mumita (josemumita16@yahoo.com)
Northern & Western Region: The Rev. Jack Clark (Priest-in-Charge@trinityhaverhill.org) and The Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer (rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org)

Ministry Discernment Day in Sept!

The Commission on Ministry and the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer invite you to the **2025 Ministry Discernment Day on September 27 from 9am to 3pm** at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston. This day is for anyone discerning God's call in their life. This gathering will feature panel discussions 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. 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.

Register here. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski at edie@diomass.org.

Fall Clergy Day: Christian Witness in a time of Christian Nationalism, with Bishop Robert Wright!

All diocesan clergy are invited to gather for **Clergy Day on Wednesday, October 1, 9:30 am-3 pm** at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston featuring guest presenter the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. In the program, "Christian Witness and Leadership in a time of Christian Nationalism," Bishop Wright will discuss a spiritual and biblical response to Christian nationalism; encourage conversation about our church's role in addressing the problematic, wide-spread conflation of Christian faith, patriarchy, and politics; and urge us to become active, compassionate witnesses in a time of deep division and transformation. The day also will include time for fellowship, light breakfast refreshments, a buffet lunch, worship, and time with Bishop Julia Whitworth and the Rev. Chris Wendell, Canon to the Ordinary. Registration will be available here on August 11.

For information: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

Stewardship Resources for Fall Campaigns:

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship—"TENS"

Looking for resources that you can download and use for your fall Stewardship Campaign? Our diocese is a member of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) and there are lots of resources freely available to our congregations.

This year the TENS stewardship theme is "Tell Out My Soul" (to get the resources, use the password: Luke1:46). Did you ever have news that was so exciting that you could not wait to share it with others? The Good News that fills our spirits with joy is about the radical abundance, abiding love, and healing power that Jesus shares with us when we respond to his call to follow him. All of the gifts that we have been given are ready to burst forth to serve our neighbors and share our love with a world in need.

For more information, contact the Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

Webinar to Prepare for Fall Stewardship Campaigns!

Are you prepared for the challenges and opportunities of fundraising for the fall of 2025? Join with stewardship leaders across the diocese and The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) for a **free webinar on Monday, August 18 at 7 pm** to:

- Review campaign proven practices.
- Learn tips on talking about money and faith.
- Prepare your finances for a turbulent end of year.

Register today!

Project Resource for Parishes—Fall 2025

Project Resource equips stewardship teams with strategic training and flexible resources to design and execute annual stewardship campaigns that can be replicated and adapted in future years. Project Resource is dedicated to fostering cultural and systemic advancements around stewardship as a ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Five Sundays: September 7 through October 5, 5-7pm, on Zoom

Project Resource:

- Helps church teams of clergy and lay leaders utilize effective resources to revolutionize all areas of stewardship and unravel internal money narratives while addressing societal shifts, organizational change, and leadership challenges.
- Guides teams through the training curriculum, session by session, considering their unique cultural and geographical context.
- Enables participants to conclude the conference with a customized work plan and measurable goals, designed specifically for their individual congregation.

Church teams will complete the course with:

- A comprehensive stewardship calendar for year-round planning.
- A detailed roadmap for launching their annual campaigns.
- Practical training on crafting personalized invitations.
- Insight into generational and individual donor motivations.

The course fee is $450 for a team of three members, with an additional cost of $125 per extra team member. DioMass scholarship is available for parishes needing financial assistance. Further details and registration.

Formation Events Around the Diocese

Big Question Day: Where is God?
Hosted by: The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer (TSPC)
Date: August 23, 2025, 10 am-2:30 pm
Location: Newburyport, Boston, and Cohasset regional centers

Each year at TSPC we gather to consider a question central to our faith. This year we're asking Where is God? What does this question mean? What do we even mean when we speak of God? Why does evil seem to flourish? Is God everywhere? In these troubling times, where and how can we encounter the Divine? Participants will receive materials they can bring back to their congregations to continue the conversation and learning. Details and registration. For more information contact Kirsten Cairns, TSPC Coordinator at tspc@diomass.org.

Multi-Parish Cookout for All in the Diocese
Hosted by: Episcopal Churches of Cambridge—Christ Church of Cambridge, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, St. James' Episcopal Church, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Date: September 7, 2025, 11 am-4 pm
Location: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 239 Harvard Street, Cambridge, MA

The Episcopal Churches of Cambridge invite all in the diocese for a cookout featuring great food and even better connections! Leading up to this event St. Bartholomew's is hosting a book drive, collecting gently used books after its 9 am service every week. Please consider bringing some donations for the book drive on Sundays or when you attend the cookout. We look forward to seeing you at the cookout! For more information, reach out to stbartscambridge@gmail.com.

Young People's Day
Hosted by: Bishop Alan M. Gates African Episcopal Mission Center
Date: September 13, 2025, 12-4 pm
Location: 67 Norwood St., Everett, MA

We invite you to a special Young People's Day, dedicated to celebrating and engaging children and young adults from across the diocese and community. The event will include music, games, storytelling, cultural expressions, and faith-centered activities designed to inspire and connect the next generation. For more information: William Kazibwe, Program Director and Chaplain at the Bishop Alan M. Gates African Episcopal Mission Center, at wkazibwe@diomass.org or the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration & Multicultural Ministries, at jbntagengwa@diomass.org.

Becoming an Episcopal Outdoorswoman
Hosted by: Barbara C. Harris Episcopal Camp and Conference Center
Date: September 13, 2025, 8:30 am-5 pm
Location: Barbara C. Harris Episcopal Camp and Conference Center
Cost: Day-only program fee: $60; overnight accommodations on Friday night and program fee: $120

Join us for the second annual Becoming an Episcopal Outdoorswoman program! If you've ever been curious about expanding your outdoors skillset, or are looking to deepen wilderness practices you already love, this is a program for you! Come and spend the day connecting with creation and learning valuable skills in an environment of cooperation and Christian community. This event is coordinated by NH Episcopalian and naturalist Linden Rayton of Living Water Nature Programs. All workshops are led by Episcopal women, lay and ordained. This event is for female-identifying folks who are 18 years old and up. Register here.

Metacomet's Rebellion/King Philip's War:
A Story of its History and Legacy
Hosted by: Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts
Date: September 23, 2025, 7-8:30 pm
Location: Online

This event is part of a series of offerings in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the beginnings of Metacomet's Rebellion. Pokanoket Tribal Historian Dog Strong Turtle Brown Jr. will explain how early skirmishes and clashes in culture from the Native peoples' earliest contacts with

Europeans eventually led to Metacomet's Rebellion. Registration is required; register here.

Voices of Hope—Music Bonanza & Fundraiser
Hosted by: Bishop Alan M. Gates African Episcopal Mission Center
Date: October 4, 2025, 10 am-2 pm
Location: 67 Norwood St., Everett

We invite you to join us for Voices of Hope, a joyful music bonanza and fundraiser for the African Center. This event will bring together choirs and individual artists to share their musical talents in an evening of praise, culture, and community. Guests will enjoy a variety of African dishes and opportunities to support the work and mission of the center. For more information: William Kazibwe, Program Director and Chaplain at the Bishop Alan M. Gates African Episcopal Mission Center, at wkazibwe@diomass.org or the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration & Multicultural Ministries, at jbntagengwa@diomass.org.

Vestry Days
Hosted by: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Date: October 4 and 18, 9 am-12 pm
Location: Online

Vestry members are invited to attend one of the two Vestry Days with regional canons. The agenda will be identical on both days and will include conversation on collaboration, updated policies and procedures, and other topics to support lay leaders. Registration will open in September. For more information, contact The Rev, Kelly O'Connell, Regional Canon for the Southern Region, at koconnell@diomass.org.

And SAVE THE DATE for these other fall events!

Revival and Resilience: Worship in a Time of Climate Crisis
Hosted by: Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission
Date: October 4, 9 am-3:30 pm
Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7 Faulkner St., Ayer, MA,

Join us for a day of worship, reflection, learning, and feasting to explore ways to bring our worship tradition alive in a time of climate crisis. How can our prayer—at home, at church, and in nature—reknit our relationship with the earth and build our resilience and hope? We will meet at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and spend part of our day at a pocket forest in Ayer. Open to everyone in Province I & II, as well as the ELCA New England Synod. More information and registration here. Questions? Contact Dean Amy McCreath (amccreath@diomass.org).

Indigenous Peoples' Day Deer Island Pilgrimage
Hosted by: Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts
Date: October 13, 2025, SAVE THE DATE!
Location: Natick, MA, to Deer Island

Join the Diocese of Massachusetts and the Diocese of Western Massachusetts this fall as we mark the 350th anniversary of the beginning of Metacomet's Rebellion (King Philip's War) with a pilgrimage from Natick, MA, to Deer Island—the internment site where hundreds of Native people from the "praying towns" died from exposure and starvation in the winter of 1675-1676. This spiritual experience of place, presence, and still reflection will be guided by Native neighbors, supported by Episcopal communities, and include the bishops of both dioceses. This fall's events are a small step along the path toward justice

that both Bishop Doug Fisher (EDOWMa) and Bishop Julia Whitworth called us into as dioceses in their recent joint statement endorsing the MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda. More information about the pilgrimage, registration, and opportunities for individual congregational witness on October 12 will be shared in the months ahead. For more information, contact the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa at jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400.

From our Ministry Partners:

Shared Quiet Day: "Peace in the Storm"
Hosted by: Bethany House of Prayer
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 10:30 am–3:30 pm
Location: 181 Appleton St., Arlington, MA
Cost: $50, meal not included
Registration: Register here. Limit of 12 people

"…peace meets you at the garden gate… At Bethany every leaf and tree, every stone and flower seems infused with the prayers of the faithful." —Desmond Tutu

Come away to a quiet place and find rest for your soul. Upon arrival, each person receives a packet with suggested ways to spend the day in quiet contemplation. With the exception of an opening practice and the time you set aside for personal prayer, your time is unstructured. An atmosphere of prayerful silence is maintained in the houses and on the grounds for the duration of the Quiet Day.

Wild Church
Hosted by: Bethany House of Prayer
Date: Saturday, August 16, 3 pm (rain date Sunday, August 17, 3 pm)
Location: 181 Appleton St., Arlington, MA
Cost/Donation: Free. For those who can afford it, there is a suggested donation of $10-$20 to Bethany House of Prayer.

"Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; But only he who sees, takes off his shoes." ~ Elizabeth Barrett Browning

A Wild Church is a community of people who gather outdoors to worship and connect with God through experiences with nature. Wild Church communities seek to discover how God is revealed through the trees, the birds, the wind, and the earth—offering a time to experience the splendor of God's creation and praise God for the beauty of the earth.

This event will be led by Rev. Diane Anderson and Michele Ryan, leaders of Chapel of the Pines in Wellesley.

Feast with the Monks
Hosted by: Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE)
Dates: See the following
Location: 980 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, MA

The Brothers of SSJE invite you to join us in celebrating the Church's feasts throughout the year. We pray the Daily Office and celebrate Holy Eucharist daily, and welcome all who desire to enter more fully into the Church's cycle of feasts celebrating the lives of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the saints, as well as the central mysteries of our faith. Full list of these special liturgies. Upcoming feast days:

- Wednesday, August 6: The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Eucharist at 6 pm, followed by supper.

- Friday, August 15: Saint Mary the Virgin. Holy Eucharist at 6 pm, followed by supper.

For information about other programs and retreats offered by SSJE, see its full calendar. Scholarships for young adults and students are available; more information.

Diocesan Council Actions:

At its July 17 meeting, the Diocesan Council heard:

- Updates from Bishop Whitworth and Canon Chris Wendell on the visioning process and next steps.
- A report from the Evangelism Working Group.
- A report from the Budget Committee and finance department.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, August 21 at 6:00 pm* on 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.

Supply Priest List: To request a copy of the most up-to-date Supply Priest List, please e-mail David Ames, Administrator for Clergy and Transitions, at dames@diomass.org.

Central Region
Regional Canon
Marissa Rohrbach
mrohrbach@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:
BEDFORD, St. Paul's

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church
SHARON, St. John's

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:
NORWOOD, Grace Church *(40 percent time)*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:
DORCHESTER, All Saints (*full-time)*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:
Priests with interim training who are interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.
MATTAPAN, Church of the Holy Spirit

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:
Priests interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.
BURLINGTON, St. Mark's *(half-time)*

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:
WABAN, Good Shepherd (*part-time associate)*

CLERGY CHANGES:
The Rev. Harry Jean-Jacques concluded his ministry at Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan, on June 29, 2025.
The Rev. Zenetta Armstrong concluded her ministry at Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan, on July 27, 2025.

OTHER CLERGY NOTES:
In July, the Rev. Dr. Regina Walton started a new position as editor and

content developer for Discipleship Initiatives at Forward Movement. Regina is working remotely and remains in the diocese. She continues as denominational counselor for Episcopal/Anglican students at Harvard Divinity School.

Northern & Western Region
Regional Canon
Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:
SALEM, Grace Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:
SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's-Rector

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:
LAWRENCE, Grace Church (Bilingual needed: Spanish/English)

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:
DANVERS, All Saints of the North Shore *(Priest-In-Charge (PIC), half-time)*
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's (*PIC, half-time)*-Until August 15, 2025

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:
READING, Church of the Good Shepherd

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:
Priests interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.
DANVERS, All Saints of the North Shore *(half-time)*
MALDEN, St. Paul's *(one-quarter time)*
SAUGUS, St. John's *(less than half-time)*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:
Priests with interim training who are interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.
CHELSEA, St. Luke's/San Lucas (Bilingual priest needed: English and Spanish)-Begin after Feb. 1, 2026
NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's *(half-time)*
SALEM, Grace Church *(three quarter-time)*

CLERGY CHANGES:
The Rev. Gustavo Galeano has been called to serve as PIC of St. Stephen's Church, Lynn.

Southern Region
Regional Canon
Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:
MARION, St. Gabriel's
EDGARTOWN, St. Andrew's

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:
SWANSEA, Christ Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:
BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church, (*half-time*)

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:
Priests with interim training who are interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.
ATTLEBORO, All Saints' *(half-time)*

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS
Priests interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.
FALL RIVER, St. Luke's (one-eighth-time)

NEW BEDFORD, St. Martin's (one-quarter-time)

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:
ORLEANS, Holy Spirit – curate or assistant full time

Next fyi:

Fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the September issue is ***Monday, August 25, at noon***. Email submissions to news@diomass.org.