

Thursday, October 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

617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

Sign up for E-news

Events Calendar

Job Postings

Special Notice about FYI

As the communications office prepares for the arrival of our new Canon for Communications, Witness, and Engagement in early November, we will <u>not be publishing a November FYI.</u> The next issue of FYI will be published on December 3 and entries should be submitted by noon on November 24. Email submissions to news@diomass.org.

Prepare for Diocesan Convention at Pre-Convention Forums

Online registration is open for Diocesan Convention to take place Friday-Saturday Nov. 14-15 at the Marriott Boston Burlington Hotel in Burlington. Early registration is encouraged. Registration link and other details.

Pre-Convention Forums—open to all, particularly voting members of the convention—will be held via Zoom. The forums offer an opportunity for discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including the proposed 2026 diocesan budget, resolutions and other important convention components. The forums will take place on:

- Saturday, Oct. 18, 2-3:30 p.m.: Register here.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.: Register here.
- Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.: Register here.

Clergy desiring to vote at Diocesan Convention must be canonically resident two weeks prior to its start; contact the Rev. Margaret Lias at mlias@diomass.org to complete this process by Saturday, Nov. 1. Delegate changes should be reported via the delegate substitution form until Friday, Nov. 7; after that email convention@diomass.org to ensure the change is processed.

Join Us October 12 and 13 to Mark the Beginning of Metacomet's Resistance Join with Episcopalians across the state on October 12 and 13 as we mark the 350th anniversary of the beginning of Metacomet's Resistance (King Philip's War) and the expulsion of Native people to Deer Island. These experiences of learning, holy listening, place, and presence will be guided by Native neighbors from multiple tribes and bands native to the lands on which we live and worship. Supported by both the Diocese of Massachusetts and the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, the offerings are part of a broader call made by Bishops Fisher and Whitworth in their joint letter calling for us to become active allies with Native people across the Commonwealth.

For more information, contact the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, at jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400.

Sunday Worship

Date: October 12

Local worshiping communities are encouraged to set October 12 aside as *A Day of Remembrance and Lamentation* for the anguish caused by the expulsion, enslavement, and genocide of Native people across our Commonwealth. <u>Liturgical resources</u> are available to assist in planning your local liturgy.

Service of Holy Listening ahead of Oct. 13 Sacred Journey to Deer Island

Date: October 12, 4 pm

Location: Online

Join us for a Service of Holy Listening as we gather in a virtual circle and receive the gift of story from several Native voices, each bringing a unique perspective of their experience of Deer Island, and Metacomet's Rebellion/King Philip's war and its meaning and relevance today. Register here.

Indigenous Peoples' Day Sacred Journey to Deer Island

Date: October 13, 9 am-5 pm **Location:** Natick to Deer Island

Join us for a sacred journey from St. Paul's, Natick, 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 the Diocese of Massachusetts and the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. We are encouraging youth to come with their families and congregations on this historic and important journey. There will be an opportunity for young people to gather while we are there and debrief what this has meant to them and what they have learned. This event is fully subscribed. To join the waiting list, email Jocelyn Collen at JCollen@diomass.org.

<u>Preparation for Deer Island Journey</u> offers details on what to expect from the sacred journey as well as more information on early contact between Native peoples and English colonists and the clashes leading up to Metacomet's Resistance/King Philip's War.

Clergy and Vestry Members Invited to Vestry Days

More than 100 clergy and wardens joined the Regional Canons last March for Wardens Days. This fall, we're widening the circle to invite both wardens and interested vestry members for our October offerings.

We have planned two Vestry Days—for October 4 and 18 on Zoom—focused on content that we hope you will find valuable in your work:

- Interesting collaborations between parishes.
- How to navigate the presence of ICE in our communities.
- Diocesan core values and mission strategy.
- Updates on policies and procedures in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

The sessions will take place from 9 am-noon and the agenda is identical for both meetings. Spanish language interpretation will be provided for the October 18 session. Register at the following links and/or reach out to your <u>Regional Canon</u> if you have questions:

- October 4
- October 18

Annual Enrollment for Benefits – Oct. 15-Nov. 7

The Annual Enrollment period for 2026 benefits is coming up, October 15 to November 7. During this period, employees can make changes to their enrollment choices for medical and dental insurance without a qualifying event.

There are no changes to the plan offerings or to plan design for 2026. However, all enrolled members are encouraged to log in to their CPG account and confirm their choices and personal information for the coming year. CPG will be sending emails to all currently enrolled members with information on how to make choices for next year.

Additionally, the diocese sent an email on September 24 with a flyer that contains details about premiums and diocesan policies around medical and dental benefits. You can view the flyer and other resources at 2026 Medical and Dental Plans.

Eligible employees who are not currently enrolled but would like to enroll for next year should contact Human Resources Generalist Nathaniel Fasman at nfasman@diomass.org. You can also contact him with any questions about benefits and Annual Enrollment.

We ask that you share this information with all eligible employees in your parish or organization.

Upcoming Events

See the <u>diocese website</u> for a full list of fall events!

Voices of Hope-Music Bonanza and Fundraiser

Hosted by: Bishop Allen M. Gates African Anglican-Episcopal

Mission Center

Date: October 4, 10 am-2 pm

Location: 67 Norwood Street, Everett

All are invited 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 Anglican-Episcopal Mission Center, at wkazibwe@diomass.org or the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration & Multicultural Ministries, at jbhtagengwa@diomass.org

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

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 <u>here</u>. Questions? Contact Dean Amy McCreath (amccreath@diomass.org).

Episcopal City Mission's 181st Annual Meeting: Meet the Moment: Rise, Resist, and (Re)build!

Date: October 4, 2025, 9 am-12:30 pm

Location: All Saints Worcester, 10 Irving St., Worcester

Together, we'll gather as a community of faith and action—lay and ordained leaders, community partners, and others—to reflect on the past year, share powerful stories from our collective work, and recommit ourselves to the movement for justice, healing, and repair. It will be a space to celebrate our shared victories, grieve what's been lost, and build toward what's possible when we rise together. Register.

Clericus of Boston 2025-2026 Season - Join Us!

Sponsored by: Clericus of Boston

Date: First session takes place October 6, 6:30-8 pm

Location: Online

Which Clergy Group in this diocese has the longest unbroken history?

- a) The College of Impeachable Preachers
- b) The Mysterium Magisterium
- c) Associates of Fr. Guido Sarducci
- d) The Clericus of Boston

If you picked d), you'd be correct! The Clericus of Boston was formed in 1872 by Phillips Brooks, preeminent preacher and long-time rector of Trinity Church, Boston, elected bishop in 1891. The band of Episcopal clergy colleagues met monthly for dinner, a presentation, discussion, conviviality and mutual support. After his sudden death, the Clericus was renamed in his honor. If the benefits sound appealing, this is your invitation to join this historic (but not stuffy) Clericus. With the changes necessitated by Covid, meetings now typically take place via Zoom on the first Monday of each month, though an in-person dinner meeting is being planned, perhaps for November. The 2025-26 season begins on October 6, 6:30-8 pm. Program and speaker TBA. To get the link, email Barbara Smith-Moran (smithmoran@earthlink.net), cc'd to Norm Faramelli (norm_faramelli@msn.com)

Poor People's Campaign—Next Community Book Read

Sponsored by: Massachusetts Episcopal Network

Date: October 8, 6 pm **Location:** Online

Please join us to discuss <u>We Survived the End of the World:</u>
<u>Lessons from Native America on the Apocalypse and Hope</u> by
Steven Charleston. As always, we encourage you to read the book in advance, but we welcome all to join us and be part of the conversation. Register for the event.

About the book: From the moment European settlers reached these shores, the American apocalypse began. But Native Americans did not vanish. Apocalypse did not fully destroy them, and it doesn't have to destroy us. Pandemics and war, social turmoil and corrupt governments, natural disasters and environmental collapse—it's

hard not to watch the signs of the times and feel afraid. But we can journey through that fear to find hope. With the warnings of a prophet and the lively voice of a storyteller, Choctaw elder and author of Ladder to the Light Steven Charleston speaks to all who sense apocalyptic dread rising around and within.

Eucharist Visitor Training

Sponsored by: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and St. Paul

Center for Theology and Prayer

Dates: See below **Locations:** See below

Four opportunities for Eucharistic Visitor Trainings are being offered in person this fall. 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. One training is scheduled in each region of the diocese:

- Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30-9 pm at Our Redeemer, Lexington (space limited to 7 people)
- Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 am-noon at St. Mary's, Barnstable
- Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30-9 pm at Our Redeemer, Lexington (space limited to 7 people)
- Training in Spanish: Sunday, Nov. 23, 2-4:30 pm at St. Anne's, Lowell (snacks included)

Register.

Barbara C. Harris (BCH) Fall Work Weekend and Regional Youth Retreat

Sponsored by: BCH Camp and Diocesan Youth Leadership Council

Dates: October 24-26

Location: BCH Camp and Conference Center, 108 Wally Stone

Lane, Greenfield, NH

<u>Work Weekend:</u> Join us for a weekend of work (and play!) as we complete various projects around BCH. Bring your family and friends, church, or youth group to BCH for the day on Saturday October 25 or stay over until Sunday October 26 and help us prep the campus for the winter. All ages, stages, and abilities welcome! This is a no-cost event. <u>Register</u>. For more information, email info@bchcenter.org.

Regional Youth Retreat: The Diocesan Youth Leadership Council will be participating in the work weekend, as well as doing planning and training for the Youth Ministry. Join youth from around the region to have fun and explore questions of faith and community. Event is appropriate for middle and high school students. Tiered pricing is available. Register here. For more information, reach out to Kate Howton, BCH program director, at kate@bchcenter.org.

Welcome Wagon for New Priests

Hosted by: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Date: October 30, 11:30 am-1:30 pm Location: Groton School, Groton

This fall, we will try on a new way of welcoming priests who have

come from outside our diocese. If you moved here in 2024 or 2025 to start a new call, we would love for you to join us for a four-part series that will offer you a chance to connect with colleagues and learn about our life together in Christ in this time and place. Each session in the series will address a different topic. The October session will focus on diocese expectations for clergy, governance structures, diocese organizational structure, and ways to participate in the wider diocese.

If you have questions, please reach out to your <u>Regional Canon</u>. We're really looking forward to spending this time with you!

Save the Date for These Future Events

Teach Us to Pray Retreat

Hosted by: Communities for Spiritual Vitality

Date: November 6-9

Location: St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, 329 Camp

Merrimac Road, Contoocook, NH

Join the <u>Communities for Spiritual Vitality</u> for a retreat led by Brothers Keith and Luke of the <u>Society of Saint John the Evangelist</u>. The first disciples asked this of Jesus, and countless disciples have asked it in each generation since. This weekend will introduce several practices of prayer and discuss how they can be taught to others. We'll explore such themes as the relationship between Word and silence, repetition and imagination, movement and stillness, and solitude and community. The retreat will be held in a rhythm of solitude, fellowship, and practice.

The retreat is open to any layperson in a parish without a dedicated full-time priest. Those who identify as lay leaders or members of underrepresented communities are especially encouraged to join us. Register here by **October 7**; space is available on a first-come basis. Financial support is available if needed. Reach out to Hannah Cooper at communities@diovermont.org for more information about the retreat or scholarships.

Communities for Spiritual Vitality is also launching a new cohort for 2026. See the summer issue of <u>ENews</u> for details on this cohort. Zoom information sessions will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 5:30-7 pm, and Thursday, November 20, 6-7:30pm. Lay leaders should email <u>communities@diovermont.org</u> to express their interest and obtain a Zoom link for the sessions.

Reparations Summit: An Episcopal Call to Moral Witness & Action

Hosted by: Christ Church Cambridge **Date:** November 8, 10 am-4 pm

Location: Christ Church Cambridge, Zero Garden St.

Join us for this summit calling the Episcopal Church in Massachusetts to truth, repair, and transformation. The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas will deliver the keynote address, followed by stories from Christ Church Cambridge, Episcopal City Mission, and other communities leading reparations efforts. Participants can also join learning and action tracks designed to meet congregations and leaders wherever they are on their journey. Registration is required. Register here.

2025 Province 1 Acolyte Festival

Hosted by: Province 1 Formation Network

Date: November 22, 10 am-2 pm

Location: Christ Episcopal Church, Needham

Join us for Province 1 Acolyte Festival—a time of faith formation, fun, and friendship! Parish leaders should collect <u>permission</u> <u>slips</u> from all minor participants and register their groups via <u>Google Form</u>. You can also find an <u>advertising graphic here</u>. Have questions or want to volunteer to help? Email Bird Treacy, co-convener of the Province 1 Formation Network, at <u>birdinthebellfry@gmail.com</u>

St. Luke's-San Lucas Community Dining Gala to Honor Fr. Edgar

Hosted by: Parish of the Epiphany

Date: December 2, 6:30 pm

Location: Parish of the Epiphany, 70 Church St., Winchester

Celebrate Fr. Edgar's 18 years of dedicated service and ministry to Chelsea! Help us raise funds to secure Fr. Edgar's legacy in Chelsea by funding Community Dining for the entire year of 2026 and beyond. Latin American cuisine will be featured at the December 2 event. More information: Paul Bowen, pbowen@stpaulslynnfield.org.

Confirmations and Receptions

Hosted by: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Dates: See below Locations: See below

The following regional services for Confirmations and Receptions are now open for registration. Clergy should register their confirmands/those being received through Brad Rothrock, cathedral administrator, at brothrock@diomass.org. Please register early to ensure space at the gathering most convenient for your congregation.

Bishop Whitworth is very willing to confirm and receive people at their parishes while on visitation. Regional confirmations offer the gift of being with the wider church, experiencing our unity in Christ, and celebrating with a large group. People from any faith community in the diocese are welcome at any service. Questions should be directed to the Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean of the Cathedral, at amccreath@diomass.org.

- April 11, 2026—10:30 am, St. Andrew's, Framingham
- May 3, 2026—4 pm, St. Stephen's, Lynn
- May 9, 2026—10:30 am, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston
- May 17, 2026—4 pm, Christ Church, Plymouth

From our Ministry Partners

Friday Morning Meditation

Hosted by: Bethany House of Prayers

Dates: Fridays, 7:30-8:30 am

Location: 181 Appleton St, Arlington; St. Anne's side chapel (enter through the main door) or outside near the labyrinth, weather permitting

Join us on Friday mornings in Arlington before your busy day begins for a time to come to quiet in community with others. This will be a shortened experience similar to our Thursday Contemplative Prayer.

After meditation, we return together for contemplative dialogue—an opportunity to share what may have arisen during the quiet time. Contemplative dialogue is a time of deep listening to each other, to experience insight, healing, or renewal provided by the divinity of our time together. Newcomers welcome.

Upcoming Events at Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE)

Hosted by: SSJE **Date:** See dates below

Location: 980 Memorial Dr., Cambridge

Cost: Check individual listings

The Brothers of SSJE, a men's religious order in Cambridge, invite you to join us for a number of upcoming retreats and programs:

• Quiet Day, October 7

- Retreat "Meeting God in the Gospel of John", October 14-19
- <u>Feast with the Monks—All Saints</u>, November 1
- Retreat "Joy and Thanksgiving", November 13-16

For information about other SSJE programs and retreats, see the <u>full calendar</u>.

Communications Office Hours

Hosted by: Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Communications **Dates:** See below **Location:** Online

The Rev. Vicki Ix, Canon for Communications, and Alison Gamache, Assistant for Communications, at the Diocese of Western Massachusetts are pleased to offer a monthly Zoom support call for all who are involved in congregational communications. Each month we will focus on a specific topic, but leave plenty of time for questions. All are welcome! Parish administrators, clergy, digital ministers—this hour is for you! We hope to see you and look forward to supporting you in your ministry of communications. Upcoming sessions:

- October 16, 11 am, Congregational Visibility
- November 20, 11 am, The Weekly Email
- December 18, 11 am, Platforms: Canva and Buffer

Join calls at this link. Meeting ID: 833 0282 2919

Passcode: comms

Grants and Loans

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 bishop's office 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.

Details about the Clergy Sabbatical Program.

For sabbaticals in 2026, the deadline to submit applications is

Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.

Questions may be directed to the Rev. Margaret Lias, Deputy Chief of Staff and Administrative Manager, at mlias@diomass.org.

Diocesan Loan Program: Diocesan Council has approved an update to the interest rate for new loans offered through the Diocesan (Stokes) Loan and the Bud Cederholm Green Loan programs. All new loans that start their application cycle after October 1, 2025, will have an interest rate of 3.00%. This change will have no effect on loans that started in the process prior to October 1. Council has made this change to ensure that the funds will maintain their health and be able to continue giving meaningful loans to parishes for many decades to come.

As an additional reminder, Council increased the lending limits for a single loan to \$125,000 last year. This change was intended to ensure that loans continue to provide meaningful assistance to parishes engaging in capital projects for maintaining or improving their buildings. Since the Bud Cederholm Green Fund has currently lent out all available funds to parishes, it is unable to accept applications at present. Once the fund has been replenished from repayments of outstanding loans, the Diocesan Loan Committee will announce the reopening of applications.

For more details on each of the loan programs, please visit the diocese website: <u>Diocesan (Stokes) Loans</u>; <u>Bud Cederholm Green Loans</u>.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact the staff liaison for the Diocesan Loan Committee Nathaniel Fasman (nfasman@diomass.org).

If you have general questions about building maintenance, improvements, or related matters, please contact the liaison for the Real Estate Advisory Committee Steve Abdow (sabdow@diomass.org).

Diocesan Council Actions

At its September 20 in-person workday, the Diocesan Council:

- Heard updates from Bishop Whitworth on her recent House of Bishops meeting in the Dominican Republic, the diocesan visioning process and next steps, and staff organizational realignments.
- Reviewed, reflected upon, and discussed the updated Diocesan Mission Statement and Strategic Priorities, and the plan for implementation teams.
- Heard a presentation on the draft budget for 2026 and engaged in discussion.
- Unanimously endorsed the 2026 budget and recommended it for approval by convention when it convenes on Nov. 15.
- Unanimously endorsed the Diocesan Strategic Vision to go before convention when it convenes on Nov. 15.
- Gathered together for Eucharist.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, October 16 at 6 pm on Zoom. For information: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Deputy Chief of Staff and Administrative Manager, mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229.

Clergy Search & Call Report

Please direct inquiries about this report to the <u>regional canons</u>.

Central Region

Regional Canon Marissa Rohrbach mrohrbach@diomass.org **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.

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BEDFORD, St. Paul's

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

Sharon, St. John's Norwood, Grace

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)

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)

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)

CLERGY CHANGES:

Rev. Sarah Conner has been called to serve as Interim at Grace Church, Salem

Rev. Lise Hilderbrandt has been called to serve as Associate at St. Anne's, North Billerica (Temporary)
Rev. David Prentice has been called to serve as PIC of St.

Mary's, Rockport

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)

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:

ORLEANS, Holy Spirit - curate or assistant full time

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