



Wednesday, July 6, 2016

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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August forums set for feedback on mission strategy draft

Summary timeline:

January-February:

Open forums, focus groups, online & phone surveys

March:

Listening team compiles themes from forums & surveys into initial report

April:

Initial report issued & open response period

May:

Listening team hands off revised report to mission strategy drafting group appointed by Diocesan Council and Bishop Gates

August:

Draft mission strategy issued & open response period

September:

Diocesan Council receives proposed mission strategy

November:

Mission strategy comes before Diocesan Convention for final approval

The Mission Strategy Drafting Team is currently creating a draft of a new mission strategy for the Diocese of Massachusetts. The team meets weekly across the diocese, prays together and works to forge important aspects of the diocese's shared mission. The team is taking input and data from the listening events held earlier this year, the bishops, demographic studies, Diocesan Council and other helpful sources as it discerns the Spirit's call for the next steps together as Episcopalians in eastern Massachusetts.

The draft mission strategy will be available in early August.

After the draft's release, the team will hold multiple forums around the diocese allowing time to imagine how this mission strategy might shape and give life to the diocesan community in the years ahead. Areas in the draft needing strengthening or retooling may be adjusted after these forums as the team readies a proposed mission strategy for the annual Diocesan Convention in November.

Forums will be held on:

- *Sunday, Aug. 14, 3- 4:30 p.m.* at St. Cyprian's Church (1073 Tremont Street) in Roxbury;
- *Monday, Aug. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.* at Grace Church (385 Essex Street) in Salem;
- *Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7-8:30 p.m.* at St. Mary's Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable;
- *Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7-8:30 p.m.* at All Saints' Church (121 North Main Street) in Attleboro;
- *Wednesday, Aug. 17, 7-8:30 p.m.* at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy; and
- *Sunday, Aug. 21, 3-4:30 p.m.* at St. Andrew's Church (7 Faulkner Street) in Ayer.

A phone and online survey will also be available for those who cannot attend a forum in person. The surveys will be open Aug. 8-22, online at www.tinyurl.com/draftforum and by phone, toll free, at 855-208-5877.

A **bulletin insert is available** [here](#) to help spread the word in congregations.

The team asks members of the diocesan community to be on the lookout for updates, plan now to participate in one of the forums or a survey and continue to hold the team and this diocese in prayer.

Questions may be directed to diomassmission@gmail.com. Additional information and updates, as they become available, are posted at www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

Diocesan Convention is Nov. 4-5 in Mansfield

Deadline for resolutions & nominations: Sept. 9

October pre-convention forums announced

The 231st annual Diocesan Convention will take place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 4-5* at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield. Preliminary materials were sent to delegates and clergy on June 30 and also are posted at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2016.

All resolutions, nominations for diocesan elections, proposed constitutional and canonical amendments and committee reports are due in the Office of Convention and Council by *Friday, Sept. 9 at 5 p.m.* (please note deadline date correction). No late nominations or resolutions will be accepted after this deadline.

Pre-convention forums in October will offer an important opportunity for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including resolutions and the proposed budget. Forums are scheduled to take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 19* at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield;
- *Thursday, Oct. 20* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- *Tuesday, Oct. 25* at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth; and
- *Wednesday, Oct. 26* at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham.

FOR INFORMATION: *Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council* (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

- The **Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) Camp** is *July 24-29* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. This special week at the camp is the official launch of a year-long program designed for young leaders entering ninth or 10th grade in the fall. The camp experience offers leadership development and faith formation, plus all that summer camp has to offer. At the end of the week, participants are introduced to the year-long Youth Leadership Academy and invited to continue (but signing up for the YLA week at camp is not a commitment to the year-long program). Register online at www.bchcenter.org/camp.

Those who can't make the launch week at camp but feel that the year-long YLA program speaks to them can apply online, [here](#).

- **Applications for the 2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC)** are now available. Find all instructions for completing applications [here](#). All applications are due *Thursday, Aug. 18*.

Members of the Diocesan Youth Council are students in the 10th-12th grades who act as the official youth presence at Diocesan Convention. They also work throughout the year to plan and run diocesan youth events and strive to make the church a nurturing Christian community that encourages the spiritual growth of young people.

FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry* (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org); www.diomassyouth.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry and the president of the General Convention House of Deputies, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, on June 28 issued a **letter to the Episcopal Church on transgender discrimination**. Text of the letter is available [here](#).
- Have you downloaded the [Episcopal Public Policy Network's "Election Engagement Toolkit"](#) yet?: The toolkit is available as a resource for congregations eager to participate in the electoral process faithfully, responsibly and legally. Find the toolkit [here](#). Additional resources for election and public policy engagement are available [here](#).

NOTES:

- Life Together is still accepting **applications for fellowships starting in August**. Life Together is a 10-month fellowship that matches young leaders with mission-based nonprofits, schools and churches. Fellows live in intentional community and receive training in shared leadership models, community organizing and diverse spiritual practices. Cover letters and resumes may be e-mailed to apply@diomassintern.org. For more information visit www.lifetogethercommunity.org.
- **Summer hours during July and August at the diocesan and cathedral offices** at 138 Tremont Street in Boston will allow the staff to work either a four or a five-day week: those working Monday through Thursday will work extended hours those days. Certain offices will be open on Fridays for those working a five-day week. The regular Monday-Friday schedule will resume after Labor Day, on *Tuesday, Sept. 6*.

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- A no-cost **introduction to the [Living Compass](#)** wellness program for churches will be offered on *Thursday, July 21, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, in the Resource Center at 138 Tremont Street in Boston. Clergy and lay education leaders are invited. RSVP requested; lunch will be provided.
TO RSVP/FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).
- The **Episcopal Church Foundation is presenting free webinars** this summer and fall on topics including endowment management, planned gifts, capital campaign basics, house church ministry and more. A Spanish-language webinar in August will focus on Latino/Hispanic stewardship programs. More information is available at www.episcopal.foundation.org.
- **Fall stewardship training:** Save the date for the third annual stewardship training workshop on *Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. This no-cost, half-day workshop is ideal for

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lay stewardship leaders and committee members, wardens and clergy, and will offer practical guidance for kicking off a successful fall stewardship campaign. Congregational Resource Day, on *Saturday, Oct. 1*, will also offer a stewardship track, including an in-depth workshop on planned giving, as well as a session focused on electronic giving.

FOR INFORMATION: Lynd Matt, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or lmatt@diomass.org).

- The annual **Congregational Resource Day** will be held on *Saturday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at Faith Community Church in Hopkinton. The day will once again feature a variety of workshops. Details and registration information will be available soon.

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- **Holy Land travel-and-learn opportunity:** Scholarship assistance is available to clergy and lay leaders in the diocese who would like to participate in a new course at St. George's College in Jerusalem: "Living Stones: Peace, Reconciliation and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem," offered *Oct. 14-23*. The course aims to provide an in-depth overview of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem set within the larger context of indigenous Christianity in the Holy Land. Course participants will engage with members and leaders in local parishes and make visits to holy sites and to diocesan educational and health care facilities in Israel and Palestine. Matching grants provide needs-based scholarships of up to \$2,000 to cover most in-country costs (course fees, room, meals, transportation, drivers and translators). Participants will be responsible for travel and other related costs. Those from small churches and those with little experience in global mission are especially encouraged to apply.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).

- Registration is open for "**Evangelism Matters, an Episcopal Church evangelism conference**, *Nov. 18-19* in Dallas, Tex., for anyone who would like to learn more about evangelism and available resources. This event is cosponsored by Forward Movement and the Presiding Bishop's Office, and is hosted by the Diocese of Dallas and the Church of the Transfiguration, Dallas, where the activities will be held.

Among the planned activities are a keynote address by Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, plus plenary sessions and workshops by evangelism leaders both for those who are new to sharing their faith and for confident evangelists looking for fresh resources. Plans call for a portion of the events to be webcast.

Registration information is available [here](#). Registration is \$100 per person (\$125 after Aug. 31), with lodging and transportation additional. The registration deadline is Oct. 15.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- The deadline to apply for **clergy sabbatical grants for 2017** is *Friday, Oct. 14, 2016*. Applications are available [here](#). Completed applications should be sent to the attention of Marsha Searle, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111. Notifications of grant awards will be sent on Nov. 16. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Michael Hodges (978-475-0529 or mhodges@christchurchandover.org) or The Rev. Kate Ekrem (781-862-6408 or kate@our-redeemer.net).*
- Applications for **2016 Deanery Grants (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants)** are available at www.diomass.org/deanery-grants. They are due by *Monday, Oct. 17*. Unawarded funds will be used for addendum grants after Oct. 17; congregations interested in addendum funds must note their interest in their initial grant requests. *FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its June 16 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Welcomed the new canon to the ordinary, the Rev. Canon Bill Parnell, and welcomed Betsy Ridge Madsen, new member from the Boston Harbor Deanery.

Voted on the membership structure of the Mission Hub Implementation Committee.

Heard a report from the treasurer, Lisa Garcia, on the 2017 budget draft, parishes that have not submitted audits for the current audit year and parishes that are in arrears on their assessments.

Voted to restore the votes of the lay delegates for Grace Church in Salem and St. Elizabeth's Church in Wilmington for the 2016 Diocesan Convention, in recognition of their goodwill efforts to resolve assessment arrearages.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Drafting Team and voted to adopt a process for naming a Mission Strategy Implementation Team.

Heard an update from the Parish Mergers, Closings and Related Disposition of Diocesan Parish Properties Task Force.

Heard an update about relocation of cremated remains interred on the property of the former Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland.

Heard that the Executive Committee voted to postpone the approval of the Roxbury-Dorchester Mission Hub's second-year budget until the fall.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Trinity Church (81 Elm Street) in Concord.*
FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Resources for Congregations &
Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [parish administrator](#) at All Saints Parish in Brookline; [associate director of operations and training](#) for Life Together; [communications assistant](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; two positions, [parish administrator](#) and [director of Christian education](#), at St. John's Church in Arlington; [director of children's and youth ministries](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham; [finance and human resources assistant](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; [administrative assistant](#) at St. Paul's Church in Dedham; [minister for Christian formation](#) at Grace Church in Newton; [music director-organist](#) at St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth; [interim director of music](#) at the Church of Our Saviour in Arlington; [parish administrator](#) at St. Peter's Church in Weston; [Sunday school and youth coordinator](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth; and [parish secretary](#) at St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Go to www.diomass.org for
details (Resources for Congrega-
tions & Clergy > Congregation &
Clergy Support > [Clergy Deploy-
ment/Transition Ministry](#)).

Communication regarding
deployment and parish trans-
itions should be directed to
the Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste
Ntagengwa (617/482-4826,
ext. 400 or [jbntagengwa@
diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org)).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

CONCORD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The
submission deadline for the Aug. 3 issue is **Wednesday, July 27
at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.