



Wednesday, Aug. 3, 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 draft of the new mission strategy for the Diocese of Massachusetts will be available this month for review and response. The draft will be posted at www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy as soon as it becomes available. After the draft's release, the mission strategy drafting team will host a series of forums, giving members of the diocese an opportunity to imagine together how this mission strategy might shape and give life to shared mission in the years to come. **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.

Phone and online surveys 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.

Read the **July 27 letter from Bishop Gates** about the drafting of the new mission strategy, [here](#). A **bulletin insert is available here** to help spread the word in congregations.

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.

Sept. 9 is deadline for Diocesan Convention resolutions, nominations

All Diocesan Convention 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.** Find preliminary materials and more information, including the schedule of October pre-convention forums, at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2016.

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

Diocesan clergy are invited to attend the **annual fall Clergy Day**, to be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 27**. More information will be available soon. Questions may be directed to Diane Pound, Office of the Bishop (617-482- 4826, ext. 407 or dpound@diomass.org).

**Gather a team &
get ready to go:
Resource Day is Oct. 1**

The annual diocesan Resource Day is *Saturday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at a **new location this year: Faith Community Church in Hopkinton**. Gather a team from your congregation and get ready for this day of workshops on youth ministry, pastoral care, leadership, worship, social media strategies, financial stewardship, global mission and more. Also new this year: Buses will be available as needed from downtown Boston, the South Coast and the North Shore. The full schedule and registration will be available at www.diomass.org/event/resource-day-2016 in mid-August.

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

**Upcoming youth
ministry events:**

- Youth Leadership Academy members embark on a **mission trip to Arizona and Mexico, Aug. 5-12**. Follow along on their blog and respond with your own words of support. Find the blog [here](#). The group's preparatory reflections are already posted there.

- **Applications for the 2016-2017 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) and Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)** are available [here](#). DYC applications are due *Monday, Aug. 18*, and YLA applications are due *Tuesday, Sept. 7*.

Young people entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade are eligible to apply for DYC, which represents the youth of the diocese with voice and vote at Diocesan Convention and serves the youth of the diocese by planning and running diocesan youth retreats. YLA is a leadership training and spiritual formation program for young people entering 9th and 10th grades. Through YLA, participants create and lead a self-chosen project to connect their home parish and the wider community.

- The Office of Youth Ministry has published its **calendar of offerings for the coming year**, available [here](#). It includes perennial favorites such as middle school, high school and pre-Confirmation retreats, as well the Good Friday overnight. The 2016-2017 schedule also includes several special events: a pre-election youth summit held in partnership with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and a Diocesan Acolyte Festival. Parish leaders are encouraged to share this calendar with others in the congregation as they plan their own youth programs for the coming year.

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

CHURCHWIDE:

- 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](#).
- The Episcopal Church's **Task Force for Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism** has developed an **online survey** to identify churchwide attitudes, concerns and hopes for using social media for evangelism. The task force says that feedback gathered through the survey will help it design materials to prepare a church filled with digital storytellers. The social media survey is [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish. The survey is open until Sept. 1.
- The Episcopal Church's **Task Force on the Study of Marriage** has developed an **online survey** that seeks to find out how congregations and groups across the Episcopal Church have used, or have not used, "[Dearly Beloved](#)," a resource on marriage created in 2014 and designed to be used in discussion groups across the church. The marriage resource survey is [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish.

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Fall stewardship training:** Registration is now open, [here](#), 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 lay stewardship leaders and committee members, wardens and clergy, and will offer practical guidance on the fundamentals of fall stewardship campaigns. Additionally, the training will cover the TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) 2016 annual pledge series materials, equipping individuals to offer their stewardship narrative and discuss pledging with populations for whom it is unfamiliar.

Congregational Resource Day, on *Saturday, Oct. 1*, will also offer a stewardship track, including an in-depth workshop on planned giving and a session focused on electronic giving.
 FOR INFORMATION: Lynd Matt, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or lmatt@diomass.org).

- A **Pre-Confirmation Retreat for adults** preparing to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church will be offered on *Saturday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The day will explore this next step in a lifelong faith journey through conversations and spiritual practices with fellow travelers on the spiritual journey. Lunch is included; cost is \$10 per person. Register online, [here](#).
 FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).
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- **Introduction to Wisdom Christianity:** Dating back to the desert communities of Egypt and Syria, preserved for centuries in monastic traditions, the practices of contemplative prayer, sacred chant and lectio divina offer a spiritual technology by which lives can be lived in response to Jesus' call. Part of the Contemplative Practice and Wisdom Christianity series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, this session on *Saturday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*, will be led by the Rev. Steven Bonsey. Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$5 for students) and \$30 at the door (\$10 for students). Register online [here](#).

Co-sponsors are the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Contemplative Outreach of Boston, Common Ground: Center for Spiritual Practice and the Diocese of Massachusetts.

- The next **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** is *Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Register online [here](#). It is expected that all clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts will attend a Safe Church Training once every three years.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

- The next **Eucharistic Visitor Training** is scheduled for *Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Eucharistic visitors are lay people who have been trained to give the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. This training provides the needed licensing to be a Eucharistic visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Andrew Del Pilar, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or adelpilar@diomass.org).

- The diocesan **Antiracism Ministry Team** leads trainings which are a journey of personal discernment, using materials principally from the "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" training manual of the Episcopal Church. Other resources are also used. The training method involves participatory education which offers participants opportunities to share experiences, reflect on current issues and develop tools for change.

The **next training** will be offered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston in the following format: *Friday, Oct. 21, 5-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*, ending with Eucharist. Refreshments and lunch are provided. There is a fee of \$50 per person, which includes training materials. Participants will receive a certificate of completion. Register online, [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

- There will be a **Living Compass program training**, *Thursday-Friday, Nov. 17-18* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, with Scott and Holly Stoner training participants as certified wellness advocates. Living Compass is an Episcopal-based wellness program for churches that can be used both for formation and discipleship of church members as well as outreach to the community. This low-cost commuter training will open up all kinds of free resources and programs for participating churches to enhance their congregation's vitality by beginning or expanding their own wellness ministry. Check out the program at www.livingcompass.org. Registration will open in late August. *FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@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. 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](#); 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:

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: [nursery attendant](#) at All Saints Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [parish administrator](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading; [Christian education director](#) at St. Michael's Church in Marblehead; [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; [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; and [Sunday school and youth coordinator](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Go to www.diomass.org for details (Resources for Congregations & Clergy > Congregation & Clergy Support > [Clergy Deployment/Transition Ministry](#)).

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

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

CONCORD, Trinity Church
FRANKLIN, St. John's Church

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Stephanie Chase Bradbury has been called as rector of St. John's Church in Beverly Farms, where she has been serving as priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Zachary Brooks, a transitional deacon, has been called as rector of Trinity Church in Jacksonville, Ill., in the Diocese of Springfield.

The Rev. Marisa Egerstrom, a transitional deacon, will be serving at St. Stephen's Church in Boston.

The Rev. Isaac Everett, a transitional deacon, will be serving as the director of the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub.

The Rev. Edwin D. Johnson has been called as rector of St. Mary's Church in Dorchester, where he has been serving as priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Brian Raiche has been appointed priest-in-charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading starting in August.

The Rev. Christopher Whiteman, a transitional deacon, will be serving as the chaplain at the Groton School.

The Rev. Chuck Wynder, a transitional deacon, will continue to serve as the missionary for social justice and advocacy engagement for the Episcopal Church.

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the Sept. 7 issue is **Wednesday, Aug. 31 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.