



Wednesday, Dec. 7, 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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Team named to organize implementation of new mission strategy

The Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team appointed by Diocesan Council and Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris has been announced.

Members are **George Chu**, Church of the Good Shepherd, Dedham; **the Rev. Gay Cox**, Trinity Church, Haverhill; **Katie Ernst**, The Crossing, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston; **Louise Gant**, Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan; **Hilary Greene**, St. Mary's Church, Barnstable; **Isaac Martinez**, St. James's Church, Cambridge and The Crossing, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston; **Kwame Ofori-Asante**, St. Paul's Church, Lynnfield; **the Rev. Joe Robinson**, Christ Church, Cambridge; **the Rev. Matthew Stewart**, Church of the Holy Spirit, Fall River; and **Chris Trahan**, St. Stephen's Church, Lynn.

Win Treese of St. Elizabeth's Church in Sudbury will continue from the drafting team as co-chairperson of the implementation

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Upcoming priesthood ordinations announced

The diocesan community's prayers and presence are requested for these upcoming services of ordination to the priesthood:

- The Rev. Zachary Brooks on *Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (359 West State Street) in Jacksonville, Ill.;
- The Rev. Charles Wynder Jr., on *Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.*, at St. Luke's Church (1514 15th Street NW) in Washington, D.C.;
- The Rev. Marisa Egerstrom, on *Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017, 6 p.m.*, at St. Stephen's Church (419 Shawmut Avenue) in Boston; and
- The Rev. Christopher Whiteman, on *Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, 4 p.m.*, at the Groton School (282 Farmers Road) in Groton.

FOR INFORMATION: Contact the church hosting the ordination or the Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext. 514 or edie@diomass.org).

Ministry Discernment Conference registration now open

The Ministry Discernment Conference offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry takes place on *Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. (Snow date is Feb. 11, 2017. Check www.diomass.org for announcement.) The conference provides an in-depth look at the 2017 Ministry Discernment Handbook and gives potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts and to explore whether their call is to ordained ministry or committed lay ministry. **Online registration, available [here](#), is required by Jan. 15, 2017.**

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[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

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organizing team, with, as co-chairperson, **the Rev. Nancy Gossling**, who is an associate in ministry with Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington and worships at the Society of St. John the Evangelist Monastery Chapel in Cambridge.

Ex officio members of the implementation organizing team, along with Bishop Gates and Bishop Harris, are **the Rev. Canon Bill Parnell**, Canon to the Ordinary; **the Rev. Canon Libby Berman**, Canon for Congregations; and the diocesan treasurer, **Lisa Garcia**.

The implementation organizing team is responsible for coordinating the work of living into the new mission strategy adopted by Diocesan Convention in November. The Diocesan Council, bishops and staff share responsibility for the team. Its role is to identify short-term actions and goals for 2017, develop a prioritized, sequenced plan to inform the 2018 diocesan budget and continue an open, participatory process that includes regular communication with the diocesan community.

The team's co-chairpersons note: "The real work of implementation will involve members all around our diocese as we undertake both the initial actions outlined in the mission strategy as well as new ideas that emerge from continuing conversations about our mission."

FOR INFORMATION: Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team (diomassmission@gmail.com); www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

Ministry Discernment Conference...Continued from page 1

Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2017 is required to attend the conference, along with sponsoring priest and at least one member of the parish discernment committee. Discernment committees, one member of which must be a member of the vestry, are appointed by the sponsoring priest and should be named before the conference so that as many members as wish to may attend. Inquirers are also encouraged to bring their spouses or partners to the conference.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext. 514 or edie@diomass.org).

Evensong to mark 40 years of women's ordination in this diocese

Bishop Barbara C. Harris and the Parish of the Epiphany (70 Church Street) in Winchester will join for Evensong on *Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, at 5 p.m.*, to mark the 40th anniversary of women in the priesthood.

The late Rev. Canon M. Jeanne Sproat was ordained at the Parish of the Epiphany in January 1977, and was the first woman to be ordained a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts following the 1976 General Convention's action to open ordination to women.

A festive reception will follow the service. All are welcome.
FOR INFORMATION: Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester (781-729-1922).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

- Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the people of St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea on *Saturday, Dec. 17, 6:30-9 p.m.*, for **Las Posadas**, a traditional Advent event in which those gathered will trace Mary and Joseph's traveling search for shelter. As the group celebrates this well-known story from the Christian tradition, it will hold close in heart and mind the serious plight of modern-day refugees struggling to find shelter today. This is a bilingual and multicultural celebration with processions, music, food and hospitality. There is a registration fee of \$5 per participant (register [here](#)), but if cost is a barrier, contact the [Office of Youth Ministry](#).
 - Registration is open, [here](#), for the **2017 High School Retreat**, *Friday-Sunday, Feb. 3-5*, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. The weekend retreat features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, music by a live band and some much-needed time away from the rush of everyday life in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God in our lives. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Registration closes when capacity is reached, or on Jan. 30, 2017.
 - The Office of Youth Ministry is now accepting applications to attend the **national Episcopal Youth Event (EYE)**, *July 10-14, 2017*. Hundreds of young people will gather at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Okla., for this triennial event. EYE is for young people in grades 9-12 and their adult mentors. Some fundraising by participants will be required to cover travel costs. There are a limited number of registrations allowed from each diocese, so early application is encouraged. The online application is available [here](#). The registration deadline is Feb. 1, 2017, or whenever the trip reaches capacity.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).
 - **Winter Camp** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., takes place during Massachusetts public school winter vacation, *Monday-Saturday, Feb. 20-25, 2017*. Programs are available for young people in grades 4 through 11. Rates are \$600-\$660 for the week, with financial aid available. The camp is committed to having every child at camp who would like to come, and will give as much financial aid as necessary to relieve the burden for families in need. Find more information at www.bchcenter.org/camp, and register online [here](#).
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NOTES:

- **Knitters needed to support “Comfort Cart” outreach:** The Spiritual Care Department at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, led by the Rev. Katie Rimer, has instituted a “Comfort Cart” initiative for patients who die at the medical center. The chaplains bring a cart of fresh food, tissues, mints and a knitted “comfort shawl” to patients and families during the dying process. Families can then take the prayer shawl home, as a sacred reminder of their loved one. Families have been deeply appreciative of these shawls, and caregivers are struggling to keep up with the demand. Parish knitting groups with an abundance of shawls are invited to contribute to the Comfort Cart initiative.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Katie Rimer (krimer@bidmc.harvard.edu).

- The diocesan Global Mission Office would like congregations to know that staff members continue to be available to assist with **developing and furthering ministry with refugees and asylum seekers**. Resources are available for presenting a workshop to the congregation, connections with local agencies and an ever-growing list of parishes in this diocese which have been engaging in partnerships with refugees. In addition, both Laura Walta and the Rev. Holly Hartman are available to come and speak with congregations about this increasingly relevant ministry, and they welcome inquiries.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org) or The Rev. Holly Hartman (617-482-4826, ext. 351 or hhartman@diomass.org).

- The **Pre-Lenten Retreat for diocesan clergy** will be held *Tuesday, Feb. 21, beginning at 3:30 p.m., through Thursday, Feb. 23, ending at 12 p.m.*, at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich. The retreat presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo, President of Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation. Details and registration information will be sent directly to the clergy.

FOR INFORMATION: Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Safe Church Training** will be offered on [Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.](#), at St. Anne’s Church in North Billerica. (Click on the date link to register by end of day Dec. 8.) This training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power, to outline steps toward preventing abuse, to offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs and to equip anyone in a position of parish leadership with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ. The training is required of all clergy, diocesan employees and congregational employees, and is also highly recommended for all serving in a congregation on a regular basis.

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

- Epiphany celebrates God's glory being made manifest in the world. But how do individuals and communities of faith understand that today? How do we recognize God at work in the world? Do we even know what to look for? This year's **Epiphany Papers, a five-week study for churches**, will explore how to look for and identify God's work today in our lives, churches and communities. The materials will be available to download in late December for churches to use during the season of Epiphany, to complement preparation for implementing the new diocesan mission strategy as well as preparation for the annual diocesan Learning Event on *Saturday, March 4* (event details forthcoming). *FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).*

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Videos from the recent Episcopal Church Evangelism Conference, "Evangelism Matters,"** including plenary sessions and workshops, along with conference materials and additional resources, are available on demand online at www.evangelismmatters.org. About 400 people attended the conference, which was co-sponsored by Forward Movement and the Presiding Bishop's Office for Evangelism Initiatives, and hosted by the Diocese of Dallas and the Church of the Transfiguration.

- Applications are now being accepted for **Episcopal Church grants for local faith-based projects focused on mitigating climate change and safeguarding the integrity of creation.** The Episcopal Church Advisory Council for the Stewardship of Creation, enabled by the 2015 General Convention Resolution A030, will make recommendations for grants up to \$10,000. Application information is available [here](#). The application deadline is Dec. 31. The advisory council will make recommendations to the Executive Council for its February 2017 meeting, and final grant decisions will be made at that time. The second round of grant opportunities will open in February 2017.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Sikkema, Episcopal Church Justice and Advocacy Ministries (212-716-6055 or csikkema@episcopalchurch.org).

- **Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) fellowship applications for 2017 are now available, [here](#).** Emerging scholars and ministry leaders are invited to apply. Applicants are asked to describe how they will be developing the next generation of leaders for the Episcopal Church, whether in the context of academia, a local congregation, through a churchwide initiative or in another setting. New awards range up to \$15,000 for the first year and are renewable for an additional two years. Applications are due on *March 10, 2017*. ECF will announce the 2017 fellows in late May. *FOR INFORMATION: Brendon Hunter, ECF Fellowship Partners Program (212-870-2849 or bhunter@episcopalfoundation.org).*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

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: [administrator](#) at Grace Church in Newton; [director of youth and family ministries](#) at St. Peter's Church in Weston; [welcome center head cashier](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; [parish administrator](#) at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable; two positions, [office operations manager](#) and [assistant summer camp director](#), at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.; [director of children's and youth ministries](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham; and [music director](#) at St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

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:

None at this time.

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

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

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

BEVERLY FARMS, St. John's Church: Associate Rector

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Jennifer Beal has been called as interim assistant rector at Christ Church in Needham starting Dec. 11.

The Rev. Dr. Gale Davis has been called as associate rector by St. Paul's Church in Natick.

The Rev. Joseph Mumita has been appointed as priest-in-charge of Grace Church in Everett starting on Nov. 1.

The Rev. Stephen Voysey has been called as interim associate rector at St. John's Church in Beverly Farms.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. Because of the holidays, the submission deadline for the January issue is earlier than usual: **Wednesday, Dec. 14 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.