



Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017

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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**Exploring a call?
Register by Jan. 15 for
Ministry Discernment
Conference**

Online registration is open, [here](#), until Jan. 15 for the Ministry Discernment Conference on *Saturday, Feb. 4, 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. Check www.diomass.org for announcement.) The conference, offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry, 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.

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).*

**Two new priests to be
ordained this month**

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

- The Rev. Marisa Egerstrom, on *Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.*, at St. Stephen's Church (419 Shawmut Avenue) in Boston; and
- The Rev. Christopher Whiteman, on *Sunday, Jan. 22, 4 p.m.*, at the Groton School (282 Farmers Road) in Groton.

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

**Evensong to mark 40
years of women's ordina-
tion 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 at 5 p.m.*, to mark the 40th anniversary of women in the priesthood in the Diocese of Massachusetts. The Rev. Arrington Chambliss will preach at the service. A festive reception will follow. All are welcome.

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 this diocese following the 1976 General Convention's action to open ordination to women.

FOR INFORMATION: Parish of the Epiphany (781-729-1922).

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

NOTES:

- The **2017 Diocesan Convention** will be a one-day event, held on *Saturday, Nov. 4* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification Forms for 2017 will be mailed this month to all rectors or other priests in charge of congregations. The forms are pre-printed with the information currently in the diocesan database. Please update the information on these forms and return them to the Convention Office within 10 days of the congregation's annual meeting, as required by diocesan canons, but **no later than the deadline of March 10**.

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

- Young adults passionate about exploring the connection between faith, justice and service are encouraged to **apply for a Life Together fellowship**, [here](#). During their year, Life Together fellows engage in spiritual formation, vocational discernment, intentional community and nonprofit or parish work in the Boston area. The first-round deadline for applicants is *Friday, Jan. 13*. Learn more about Life Together at www.lifetogethercommunity.org.

- **United Thank Offering grant applications are available** online [here](#). Completed applications are due to the diocesan screening committee, in care of the diocesan UTO coordinator, Betty Murray, by *Friday, Jan. 27*.

FOR INFORMATION: Betty Murray, diocesan UTO coordinator (617-332-5939 or eg.murray@verizon.net).

- 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).

- The annual diocesan **Spring Learning Event** will be offered on *Saturday, March 4* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, and will be an opportunity to learn to recognize and share the work that God is doing in churches, communities and lives. More details to come.

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

- B-SAFE summer program partners—new and returning—are invited to gather on *Sunday, March 5, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill to begin **planning for B-SAFE 2017**. Lunch will be provided. Together

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with 55 partner congregations, B-SAFE provides a safe and learning-filled summer for more than 650 children and youth from low-income neighborhoods in Boston, Lower Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Chelsea.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Betsy Walsh, B-SAFE partner organizer (781-249-6554 or betsy@ssypboston.org).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617/482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- 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.
 - The Office of Youth Ministry is now accepting applications for the **national Episcopal Youth Event (EYE)**, July 10-14. Hundreds of young people will gather at the University of Central Oklahoma for this triennial event 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, or whenever the trip reaches capacity.
 - **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. 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](#).
 - Young people from across the diocese are invited to join the **Youth Jobs Coalition Rally** on Thursday, Feb. 23 to advocate a state budget that invests in youth. Prior to the rally, there will be a workshop co-sponsored by the B-PEACE for Jorge campaign to learn about making change on issues that young people care about on the state level, and then take action together. The group will gather at 11 a.m. for the training session at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, followed by the rally across Boston Common at the State House. RSVP online [here](#).
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- There will be two Friday-Saturday **pre-Confirmation retreats: March 17-18 and April 7-8** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Confirmands and their mentors will gather to meet other young people and explore their call to Confirmation, its promise and challenge. The retreats are led by the members of the Diocesan Youth Council who will lead small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journeys. Advance retreat registration is required. Register online [here](#).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) plans to present the 2018 General Convention with **four options regarding the possible revision of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer**, according to a [Dec. 6 media release](#) from the Episcopal Church's Office of Public Affairs.

The options, discussed in detail on [the SCLM's blog](#), are: revision of the prayer book beginning after the 2018 General Convention; creation of a book or books of alternative services beginning after the 2018 General Convention, with no accompanying revision of the prayer book; a postponement of the decision on the prayer book and supplemental resources until the completion of a churchwide conversation on liturgical theology and practice during the 2018-2021 triennium; or, step back from liturgical revision and a commitment to exploring the theology of the current prayer book in greater depth.

[Resolution A169](#) of the 2015 General Convention directed the SCLM to prepare a plan for comprehensive prayer book revision and present that plan to the next General Convention.

- **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 by *March 10*. ECF will announce the 2017 fellows in late May. *FOR INFORMATION: Brendon Hunter, ECF Fellowship Partners Program (212-870-2849 or bhunter@episcopalfoundation.org).*

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- This year's **Epiphany Papers, a five-week study for churches**, explore how to look for and identify God's work today in our lives, churches and communities. The materials are available [here](#) to download for use during the season of Epiphany, to complement preparation for implementing the new diocesan mission strategy as well as preparation for the annual diocesan Spring 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).*

● **New Formation Network meeting:** The new diocesan mission strategy encourages the forming of networks around shared interests. Diocesan staff member Amy Cook and the Rev. Regina Walton of Grace Church in Newton would like to meet with others in the diocese interested in participating in such a network around Christian formation: *Thursday, Jan. 26, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

Topics of discussion will include reviving a colleague group for directors of Christian education, and also forming a broader group or network of people interested in Christian formation (especially new directions in Christian formation) across the lifespan. There is no cost to attend the meeting, but RSVP to acook@diomass.org to be included in the lunch count and indicate any food allergies. *FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).*

● **Safe Church Training** will be offered on *Thursday, Feb. 2, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Church of the Advent (30 Brimmer Street) in Boston. Register online [here](#). Please note that this particular training event is on a weekday and geared for church professionals and those employed by parishes but it is open to anyone. Safe Church 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. 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).

● The diocese's Congregational Consultants are sponsoring **Congregational Business Practices Workshops** again this year to give parish leadership—especially new parish leaders and treasurers—an exposure to the basics of good business practices in general, and Episcopal Church business practices in particular. The workshops will cover general business practices; compensation and benefits; compliance and reporting; bookkeeping and audits; and safeguarding of assets. The workshop will be offered on four *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*:

- [Feb. 4](#) at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston;
- [Feb. 11](#) at St. Paul's Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield;
- [Feb. 25](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and
- [March 11](#) at St. Peter's Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay.

Click on the dates above to register and find more information.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants (617-482-4826, ext. 305 or cmeyer@diomass.org).

- Two **retreat days will be offered for adults wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church**, or for those just seeking to understand the Episcopal Church better. Led by the Rev. Karen Montagno and Amy Cook, each retreat will explore, through conversations, presentations and spiritual practices, a lifelong faith journey in the Episcopal tradition. One of the bishops will join part of each day for conversation and reflection. The retreats will be offered on these *Saturdays, each 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*: [March 18](#) at St. Mark's Church (116 South Street) in Foxborough and [April 8](#) at Trinity Church (131 West Emerson Street) in Melrose. Click on the dates above to register and find more information.

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

- The Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council will present **“Embracing Stewardship: How To Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation’s Life,”** an ecumenical conference for churches, to be held *Friday-Saturday, March 24-25* at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. The keynote presenters will be authors Charles R. (Chick) Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy, who will present their shared conviction that stewardship belongs at the heart of each individual and each congregation. In addition to the keynotes, participants will also have their choice of workshops. More information, as well as sign-up for the “Living Water” monthly stewardship newsletter, is available at www.nestewardship.org.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Voted electronically on Nov. 17, 2016, to affirm the appointment of Win Treese and the Rev. Nancy Gossling as co-chairs of the Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team.

At its Dec. 15, 2016, meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to accept the audit of the 2015 financial statements of the Diocese of Massachusetts as prepared by RSN US LLP.

Heard a report from the development director, Lynd Matt, on the progress of the Annual Fund to date.

Heard a report from the mission hub program director, Jin Min Lee, on the South Shore Mission Hub and overall hub funding.

Voted to increase the mission hub program director’s position from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week, effective Jan. 1.

Heard a mission strategy report from the Implementation Organizing Team’s co-chairs, Win Treese and the Rev. Nancy Gossling.

Voted to approve clergy housing allowances for 2017.

Voted to approve the assessment arrearage payment plan outlined in a letter to Grace Church in Salem, dated Oct. 12, 2016.

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Voted to change the assessment for the Church of Our Saviour in Arlington from \$12,927 to \$9,893.84, due to an error in a previous parochial report.

Voted that \$50,000 for expenses related to mission strategy come from the Fund for Congregational Vitality.

Heard an Executive Committee report that included the vote taken at its Dec. 1, 2016, meeting to forgive charges that the diocese would have incurred during the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's merger with the former Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 20-21 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.*

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: [managing director](#) of Episcopal City Mission; two positions, [parish administrator](#) and [music director](#), at St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain; [director of parish programs](#) at Trinity Church in Stoughton; [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; [assistant summer camp director](#) at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.; and [director of children's and youth ministries](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham.

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:

FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church

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.

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OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

BEVERLY FARMS, St. John's Church: Associate Rector
CHESTNUT HILL, Church of the Redeemer: Priest for Children,
Youth and Family Ministries

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Kevin Olds has been called as rector of St. Timothy's
Church on the Hill in Fairfield, Conn. His last Sunday at St.
John's Church in Saugus will be Jan. 29.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline
for the Feb. 1 issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 25 at noon**. E-mail
submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
