



Tuesday, July 3, 2018

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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**General Convention:
Follow along online**

- The 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church takes place July 5-13 in Austin, Tex. Among the ways to follow along online:
- #GC79: Use social media hashtag #GC79.
 - Multimedia and news: The General Convention Media Hub will live-stream legislative sessions, daily worship and more at www.episcopalchurch.org/general-convention-2018-media-hub, including two daily 30-minute magazine-format shows offering news and highlights, beginning on July 4: “Inside General Convention” at 5:30 p.m. Eastern and “Adentro de la convención general” at 7:30 p.m. Eastern.
 - Episcopal News Service: Follow coverage [here](#) and sign up for the daily e-mail [here](#).
 - Resolutions: Track resolutions as they make their way through the legislative process [here](#).
 - Massachusetts deputation blog: <https://diomassatgc.com>.

Ministry Network Showcase to shine a light on shared ministry

Get ready to shine a light on shared ministry: The first-ever Ministry Network Showcase, which will bring the diocesan community together to learn about and be inspired by ministries that model ways for embracing brave change through reimagining congregations, building relationships and engaging the world: *Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

This Ministry Network Showcase aims to shine a light on the variety of service-oriented ministries offered by churches and networks in the diocese; spark connections and kindle activity to start and strengthen networks of collaboration; and share resources for meeting ministry needs and opportunities in congregations and communities.

Congregations are encouraged to gather a group and plan to come for an enlightening day of short talks with big messages and lots of resource sharing. Online registration is open [here](#).

Proposals are still welcome from those who would like to share their ministry project at the event in the form of an 18-minute engaging, interactive presentation. Presentation proposals can be submitted online until July 13 [here](#). Fifteen presentation slots are available; all ministries and networks are invited to host a resource table at the event, even if they aren't among the day's presenters. *FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordination (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or jgarrett@diomass.org).*

**Presentation proposals
welcome until July 13 [here](#).**

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

**Preparations underway
for Diocesan Convention,
Nov. 3 in Hyannis**

**Resolutions & nominations
deadline is Sept. 7.
Find materials [here](#).**

**Plan to attend a pre-
convention forum in October**

The 233rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts will take place on *Saturday, Nov. 3* at the Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis. Additionally, there will be an optional dinner on *Friday evening, Nov. 2* celebrating the 30th anniversary of Bishop Barbara C. Harris's historic election. Pre-registration will be required, so watch for forthcoming details in subsequent mailings and announcements, and visit www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2018 for materials and updates.

The deadline for submission of all convention materials—nomination papers, resolutions, proposed amendments to the diocesan constitution and canons, applications for admission as a parish or mission, required reports from diocesan committees and applications for display space—is **Friday, Sept. 7 by 5 p.m.** to the Office of Convention and Council (see below).

Pre-Diocesan Convention forums in October offer an important opportunity for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including resolutions and the proposed budget. All are welcome; voting members of Convention are especially encouraged to participate. The forums will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 17* at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham;
- *Thursday, Oct. 18* at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield;
- *Tuesday, Oct. 23* at the Church of Our Saviour (120 Center Street) in Middleborough; and
- *Wednesday, Oct. 24* 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).

**EPPN and ECM offer
ways to respond to
immigration crisis**

In a [June 23 editorial](#) in *The Guardian*, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry condemns current federal immigration policy and its malign effects on families, saying, "There is no biblical mandate or warrant for what is occurring on our borders. Christianity must never be confused with cruelty." More information on Episcopal Church advocacy via the Episcopal Public Policy Network is available [here](#).

Locally, Episcopal City Mission continues to invite participation in its advocacy efforts. Sign up for its action alerts [here](#) and learn more about its Immigrant Legal Fund [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: *Natalie Finstad, Episcopal City Mission Programs and Engagement* (617-482-4826, ext. 579 or natalie@episcopalcitymission.org).

NOTES:

- Save the date: A **service of installation and celebration of the new ministry of the Very Rev. Amy McCreath as the dean** of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will take place on *Saturday, Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m.* Bishop Alan M. Gates will preach and preside. All are welcome. More details will be forthcoming.

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or cathedral@diomass.org).

- Individuals and congregations interested in **engaging in mission in Cuba**, or who are curious about what a mission partnership there might look like, are invited for an evening of exploring possibilities: Hear firsthand from members of St. Paul's Church in Nantucket, St. Luke's Church in Fall River and others as they relate their experiences from a March 2018 trip, and extend an invitation for others to join them in a return trip in November 2018. No commitments are required—just a desire for discernment.

The gathering will be held on *Wednesday, July 18, 7 p.m.*, at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston. Those who are interested in finding out more but can't make the meeting are invited to contact the trip coordinator Lucy Bixby (bixbyphoto@gmail.com) or the Rev. Holly Hartman, Deacon for Global Mission Partnerships (hhartman@diomass.org).

- **Life Together is still recruiting** to fill two more fellowship positions as soon as possible: one Micah Fellow and one Esperanza Teaching Fellow for [Esperanza Academy](#). For the Micah Fellow, Life Together is looking especially for candidates with experience and interest in working with youth. Interested young adults should be encouraged to apply right away. More information on Life Together fellowships can be found [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Lindsey Hepler, Life Together (lindsey@diomassintern.org).

- **Summer building hours** are in effect at the diocesan and cathedral offices at 138 Tremont Street in Boston, with the offices open Monday-Thursday and closed on Friday. Some staff members are working extended hours in the office Monday-Thursday; some are working regular hours in the office on those days and from home on Fridays. The regular Monday-Friday schedule will resume after Labor Day, on *Tuesday, Sept. 4.*

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).

- **Youth Leadership Academy Camp Week 2018** is *Sunday-Friday, July 22-July 27* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Rising 9th and 10th graders are invited to come discover the leader within and join with peers in exploring what faith in action in the world means in their lives. Register online at www.bchcenter.org/camp, and contact the camp about available scholarship support.

Note that the yearlong Youth Leadership Academy will be replaced in 2018-2019 with a new program currently being developed in partnership with Episcopal City Mission (see “Faith in Action: Las Fronteras” below for details). Enrolling in the week at camp does not presume a commitment to the yearlong program.

- The 2018-2019 diocesan **Office of Youth Ministry’s “Year in a Glance” schedule of events** is now available online [here](#). The calendar includes events across the diocese—a Creation Care Day of Service on the Cape, the Advent Las Posadas in Chelsea, a service of remembrance in Bridgewater for those lost to addiction, a lock-in in Boston to launch Lent—and the annual middle school, high school and pre-Confirmation retreats at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. More information and registration forms are available [here](#). Information about a series of youth worker gatherings that are being planned for this fall will be available soon.

- **Applications for the 2018-2019 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) are now available.** Find all instructions for completing applications [here](#). All applications are due *Wednesday, Aug. 15*. Recruitment help from leadership in the diocesan community is needed to achieve the goal of having the most diverse council possible.

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.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Diocesan Youth Council having full voice and vote at Diocesan Convention. Leaders are asked to spread the word to young people about the opportunity to join this important council of the church.

- **Faith in Action: Las Fronteras**, a new program for young people in grades 9-12, launches this fall. Based on the success of past mission-focused youth pilgrimages to the borderlands, this new offering—a partnership between the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Episcopal City Mission— includes a year of site visits around the diocese to see faith in action. At each site, participants will explore issues of security and hospitality, stranger

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and neighbor, privilege and disadvantage, discipleship and servant leadership, all while participating in community service projects across eastern Massachusetts and developing a community of faith and support among themselves.

The program will begin with an organizational meeting in October, and the year will culminate in the group's pilgrimage to the U.S./Mexico borderlands in August 2019.

More information and the application are available [here](#).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- Fall dates have been set for several **Safe Church Training events**. Safe Church Training events that are open to all will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on [Saturday, Sept. 15](#) at Trinity Church (47 East Street) in Wrentham and [Saturday, Oct. 20](#) at St. Mary's Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable. Click on the date links for more information and online registration. The training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power, to outline steps toward preventing abuse and to offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs. The diocese is committed to healthy church environments and needs the shared wisdom and experience of everyone to make them so.

A Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training also will be offered, on *Saturday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Register online [here](#). All clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts are expected to attend Safe Church Training once every three years.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordination (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or jgarrett@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2018 Deanery Grants** (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants) are available [here](#). Award decisions must be submitted from deaneries to the diocesan office by *Monday, Oct. 15*.

FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

- **Clergy Sabbatical Grants:** The application form and program information for 2019 Clergy Sabbatical Grants are now available [here](#). Applications are due by *Monday, Oct. 15, 2018*, for sabbaticals in 2019; award decisions will be announced by Nov. 15. Please submit applications to Lauren Zook, Diocesan Grants Administrator, by e-mail to lzook@diomass.org or by mail to her at Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Michael Hodges, Sabbatical Grant Committee (978-475-0529 or mhodges@christchurchandover.org).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its June 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from Bishop Alan M. Gates on diocesan staff changes and welcomed new development director Bliss Austin Spooner.

Heard a report from Bishop Gayle E. Harris on issues coming before General Convention.

Heard a report from the Compensation and Benefits Committee chair, Jeff Tyrakowski.

Reviewed a draft of the 2019 proposed diocesan budget and heard an update from the committee reviewing Strategic Ministry funding requests.

Heard a report from mission hub program director Jin Min Lee and voted to approve the budgets for the North Shore Mission Hub and the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub as recommended by the Mission Hub Implementation Committee.

Heard a report from diocesan chancellor Ned Notis-McConarty on the legal and canonical implications of a diocesan group becoming a separate 501(c)3 organization.

Voted to affirm, in principle, the Boston-Cambridge Mission Hub's proposed agreement with the Mission Hub Implementation Committee as a step toward becoming a 501(c)3 organization.

Voted to approve the appointment of Natalie Finstad and Karen Hotte to the Jubilee Global Mission Committee for three-year terms.

Received a list of open positions to be filled by election at Diocesan Convention.

Heard that the Executive Committee voted at its June 7 meeting to approve proposed assessment payment plans for St. Anne's Church in North Billerica and Emmanuel Church in Braintree.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Saturday, Sept. 8, 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:

[administrator](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; [sexton](#) at Epiphany Parish in Walpole; [church school coordinator](#) at St. John's Church in Arlington; [parish administrator](#) at St. John's Church in Newtonville; [interim music minister/choirmaster](#) at St. Paul's Church in Natick; two positions, [interim director of music and organist](#) and [sexton](#) at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury; [maintenance person](#) at St. John's Church in Franklin; [outreach manager](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; [youth minister](#) at Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; and two positions, [director of social and emotional support](#) and [development and communications director](#), at St. Stephen's Church in Boston.

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:

MELROSE, Trinity Church
 NEWTON LOWER FALLS, St. Mary's Church
 SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour
 WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church
 HARWICH PORT, Christ Church
 LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church
 LYNN, St. Stephen's Church
 NATICK, St. Paul's Church
 TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church
 WRENTHAM, Trinity Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

BOSTON, Trinity Church
 DUXBURY, Church of St. John the Evangelist
 HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church
 MEDFORD, Grace Church
 WALTHAM, Christ Church

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. John Clarke has retired as rector of St. Paul's Church in Malden, which will be served by supply clergy for the summer.
 The Rev. Robert Edson has concluded his service at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury and has been appointed bridge priest at St. Luke's Church in Scituate. Emmanuel Church will be served by supply clergy for the summer.
 The Rev. Billie Mae Gordon has been appointed interim priest of Trinity Church in Wrentham starting July 1.
 The Rev. Bruce Lomas has retired as rector of Trinity Church in Melrose, which will be served by supply clergy during its search for an interim priest.
 The Rev. Katherine Ragsdale has been appointed interim priest of Christ Church in Harwich Port where she has been serving as bridge priest.

NEXT fyi:

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