



**Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019**

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NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)

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**Register by Jan. 21  
for annual Ministry  
Discernment Conference**

Online registration is open through Jan. 21, [here](#), for the annual Ministry Discernment Conference offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry, to be held on *Saturday, Feb. 2, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. (The snow date is Feb. 9; check [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org) for announcement.) The conference 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 2019 is required to attend the conference, along with his or her 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, Canon for Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext. 514 or [edie@diomass.org](mailto:edie@diomass.org)).*

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**New priests to be  
ordained in January**

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

- **The Rev. Gregory Johnston** on *Saturday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.*, at St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church (147 Concord Road) in Lincoln;
- **The Rev. Jennifer Vath** on *Saturday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m.*, at Christ Church (33 Central Street) in Andover; and
- **The Rev. Jennifer McCracken** on *Sunday, Jan. 20, 4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

*FOR INFORMATION: Contact the host parish or the Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext. 514 or [edie@diomass.org](mailto:edie@diomass.org)).*

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**MA clergy invited to  
share in Pre-Lenten  
Retreat**

The annual Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat, *Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 26-28* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will be a joint event with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts again this year. Retreat leader will be Dr. Ellen F. Davis, the Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School, on the topic "Getting Real with God: The Psalms." Find more information [here](#), and register online [here](#). Payment, by check only (payable to Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, with "Pre-Lenten Retreat" in the memo line), is due by Jan. 20 to David Ames, as below.

*FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Office of the Bishop Suffragan, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111 (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org)).*

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**NOTES:**

- A **new task force is forming to examine successful models of engagement with adults in their 20s and 30s**, both within and beyond the Diocese of Massachusetts. The group will likely explore successful parish-based, regional and diocesan-based strategies, as well as conduct focus groups with young adults. The group is tasked with reporting its findings and recommendations to the annual Diocesan Convention in November 2019. Those interested in helping in the work of this task force or participating in one of its focus groups are invited to contact one of the two co-chairs, Sarah Neumann ([sneumann3@gmail.com](mailto:sneumann3@gmail.com)) or the Rev. Suzanne Wade ([revsuzannewade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzannewade@gmail.com)), or the diocesan youth missionary, the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)).

- Recruitment for 2019-2020 is underway: Know someone who might be a good fit for **Life Together or another Episcopal Service Corps program**? The Episcopal Service Corps online application opened Dec. 1 and is available at [www.EpiscopalServiceCorps.org](http://www.EpiscopalServiceCorps.org). Additionally, an online discernment tool is available, [here](#).

Life Together is a 10-month fellowship program based in Boston and surrounding areas, focused on cultivating the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders, through spiritual practice, social justice, leadership training and community building. Fellows range in age from 21 to 32 and come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Housing and utilities, health insurance and a modest living stipend are provided. Learn more about Life Together by visiting [www.lifetogethercommunity.org](http://www.lifetogethercommunity.org), following on Instagram and Facebook, or e-mailing [apply@diomassintern.org](mailto:apply@diomassintern.org).

**CHURCHWIDE:**

- In July, the Episcopal Church's General Convention considered 26 resolutions and one memorial addressing issues related to sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. One of these resolutions, [D034](#), suspends for three years the canon that places a time limit on initiating proceedings in cases of clergy sexual misconduct against adults. There is no time limit on reporting clergy sexual misconduct against children and youth under age 21.

As a result of this resolution, **from Jan. 1, 2019, until Dec. 31, 2021, those who wish to bring a case of sexual misconduct against a member of the clergy will be able to do so, regardless of how long ago the alleged misconduct occurred.** Allegations of misconduct can be made to the intake officer in the diocese where the alleged misconduct occurred, or, if the allegation is against a bishop, to the [Office of Pastoral Development](#). Information on how to reach an intake officer in the Diocese of Massachusetts is available on the diocesan website, [here](#).

Between now and General Convention in 2021, lay people, clergy and bishops appointed to several task forces created by

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the 2018 General Convention will be working on other ways of addressing these issues, including a process to help the church engage in truth telling, confession and reconciliation.

In the Diocese of Massachusetts, a recently formed task force has begun work toward additional regional education and a story-sharing process. More information will be available soon.

- **Online filing of the 2018 Parochial Report begins on Jan. 4.**

The Episcopal Church Center is no longer mailing paper forms to congregations. The diocesan Treasurer's Office, however, will be sending a mailing to congregations that contains the log-in information they need to file their Parochial Report forms online.

The Parochial Report form, as well as instructions and workbooks for each page, are available online [here](#).

The 2018 Parochial Report initial filing deadline is *March 1, 2019*, with a final deadline of *May 1, 2019*.

The diocesan Treasurer's Office requests that, after filing online, congregations send a paper copy for the purposes of annual assessment calculations to: Trish Superville, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

*FOR INFORMATION: Iris DiLeonardo, Data and Research Specialist, Executive Office of the General Convention (212-716-6017).*

- Applications for the **2019 Episcopal Church Foundation Fellowship Partners Program** are now being accepted. More information about the program and application process is available online [here](#). Since 1964, the Episcopal Church Foundation has awarded 225 fellowships to individuals pursuing advanced academic studies and special ministries, with the aim of educating and equipping future lay and clergy leaders.

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## **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](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)).*

- **Reflection, Remembrance, Response to Addiction:** *Sunday, Jan. 27, 3-7 p.m.:* The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is teaming up with Trinity Church in Bridgewater to offer a safe and sacred space in which middle and high school students and their mentors can explore the impact of drug addiction—their own or others'—on their lives and their communities. The special program of conversation and reflection will take place in advance of the National Day of Remembrance in January, on which Trinity Church in Bridgewater each year hosts an ecumenical healing service for those affected by the disease of addiction.

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

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- Registration is now open for the **2019 High School Retreat**, taking place *Friday-Sunday, Feb. 8-10* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Led by the Diocesan Youth Council, the weekend features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, lively music and some much needed time away from the rush of everyday routines 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 Feb. 3. Register online [here](#). A recruiting flier is available for download [here](#).
  - The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is partnering with Trinity Church in Boston for a Lenten-themed overnight event. Youth groups and young people will gather for the **Lent Launch Lock-In**, *Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10*, to explore with each other the potentials and the promise of this holy season. Stage director and teacher Kristen Cairns will use the tools of theater to help the group begin its exploration, and music, spoken word and the majestic Trinity Church worship space will all be utilized during the event as well. The retreat concludes with everyone participating in the 9 a.m. Sunday service, followed by a group presentation during Trinity's Sunday morning adult educational forum. Find information and online registration [here](#).
  - The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has scheduled two Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 22-23* and *April 5-6*. Both retreats will be held 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. Members of the Diocesan Youth Council will lead small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journey, and one of the bishops will attend each retreat. Advance registration is required. Register online [here](#). A recruiting flier is available for download [here](#).
  - **Episcopal Relief & Development disaster preparedness trainings** will be offered on two upcoming *Saturdays, Jan. 26* and *Feb. 23, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Lunch will be provided. Each training will facilitate the development of a ministry that assists congregations in anticipating and preparing for local, unexpected disastrous events. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be prepared to function as the Episcopal Relief & Development point person for the congregation. Lay participation is encouraged and clergy are welcome. RSVP by e-mail to [jay@stpauls-nbpt.org](mailto:jay@stpauls-nbpt.org) (please indicated any food restrictions).  
*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Jay Jordan (978-465-5351 or [jay@stpauls-nbpt.org](mailto:jay@stpauls-nbpt.org)).*
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## **TRAINING & LEARNING:**

- **Province I Faith Formation Leaders Gathering:** This year's gathering of faith formation leaders from New England dioceses is designed to give experiences of the "Way of Love" practices that Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has invited Episcopalians to take on, and to learn ways to bring them to our communities. It takes place *Thursday (5 p.m.)-Saturday (1 p.m.), March 14-16* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Jerusalem Greer, a member of the Way of Love creation and leadership team, will lead the gathering. This is a chance to join faith formation practitioners from across New England to share stories and offer mutual support, discover ways to bring the values, principles and practices of the Way of Love into community practice, enjoy good food, rest and renew in a beautiful setting. Find more information and register online [here](#).

- New vestry member? Treasurer? Want to understand the business aspects of your congregation? The diocesan Congregational Consultants are once again offering their **Congregational Business Practices Workshops** several times this spring. These workshops are important for vestry members, officers and clergy—anyone involved in the business matters of the congregation.

Click on the date links to register online for workshops scheduled on the following *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.:*

- [March 16](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- [March 23](#) at Trinity Church (131 West Emerson Street) in Melrose;
- [March 30](#) at Trinity Church (One Blue Hill River Road) in Canton; and
- [April 6](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd (74 High Street) in Wareham.

The Congregational Consultants are knowledgeable, experienced and dedicated lay and ordained individuals from across the diocese with experience in leadership roles in congregations; as members of diocesan committees; and professionally as accountants, architects, business consultants, educators, business and finance executives, lawyers and members of the clergy.

*FOR INFORMATION: Consultants coordinator Chris Meyer ([cmeyer@diomass.org](mailto:cmeyer@diomass.org)) or events coordinator Jennifer Garraet (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

## **DIOCESAN GRANTS & LOANS:**

- Applications for 2019 Episcopal Church **United Thank Offering Grants** are now available at [www.episcopalchurch.org/2019-uto-grants](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/2019-uto-grants). Completed applications are due to the diocesan UTO coordinator, Betty Murray (617-332-5939 or [eg.murray102@gmail.com](mailto:eg.murray102@gmail.com)), by *Friday, Jan. 18*.

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its Dec. 6 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard that incorrect 2019 assessment figures were sent to congregations in June 2018, resulting in a discrepancy between those figures and the correct figures published in the budget that was approved by Diocesan Convention in November 2018. Thirty-one congregations were affected, with an impact on the 2019 budget of \$68,465.

Voted to adjust the published 2019 assessments so that no congregation's assessment will exceed a 10 percent increase over the 2018 assessment (for a single year only); and that the funds required to cover these adjustments be taken from assessment adjustment reserves not already committed and from budget line item CC4099.

Voted that St. Andrew's Church in Ayer be granted an abatement for its 2017 assessment in the amount of its current arrearage for that year.

Voted that the total assessment arrearage from 2013 owed by St. Peter's Church in Dartmouth be forgiven.

Received a report from the diocesan Treasurer's Office on third-quarter financials.

Debriefed about the November Diocesan Convention.

Heard an update from the Strategic Ministry Committee.

Heard a report that the Executive Committee approved clergy housing allowances for the regional canons at its Nov. 29, 2018, meeting.

Heard an update from the Indaba Working Group.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** *Friday-Saturday, Jan-18-19* 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](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org)).*

## **JOB POSTINGS:**

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: two positions, [associate director of development](#) and [lead reading teacher](#), at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; [payroll and benefits manager](#), a position on the diocesan staff; two positions, [associate for children and families](#) and [nursery caretaker](#), at St. James's Church in Cambridge; [organist-music director](#) at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury; and [parish administrator](#) at St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge.



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**CLERGY SEARCH &  
CALL REPORT:**

Communication regarding parish transitions 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:**

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church  
FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit  
NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church  
WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

HARWICH PORT, Christ Church  
MELROSE, Trinity Church  
NATICK, St. Paul's Church  
NEWBURYPORT, St. Paul's Church  
SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour  
SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church  
WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

LYNN, St. Stephen's Church  
NEWTON LOWER FALLS, St. Mary's Church

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:**

LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church  
TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

BOSTON, Trinity Church  
CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church  
WALTHAM, Christ Church

**OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**

CAMBRIDGE, [Episcopal Chaplain at Harvard](#)

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Rebecca Blair has completed her service at St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford. The Rev. Shannon Kelly has been appointed bridge priest there, starting Jan. 6.

**NEXT fyi:**

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the February issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

Find the 2019 schedule of diocesan newsletter deadlines and issue dates posted online [here](#).

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