



**Wednesday, July 3, 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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**#MeToo Task Force  
offers new resources  
for response to sexual  
misconduct**

In January, Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris wrote a [pastoral letter](#) to the people of the diocese regarding sexual misconduct in the church. In it, they noted General Convention's three-year suspension of the statute of limitations on initiating clergy disciplinary cases.

They also recognized that sexual misconduct in the church is committed by clergy and lay persons alike, and they reported that the diocesan #MeToo Task Force was in the process of considering additional ways to respond.

To support healing and create a more respectful and honest culture in congregations and the diocese, the #MeToo Task Force has now created an online storytelling tool, available at [www.diomass.org/MeToo](http://www.diomass.org/MeToo), through which accounts of sexual misconduct in the church may be shared. Those using the form can remain anonymous if they choose. They can tell as much or as little as they wish. They can choose whether or not they'd like to be contacted for pastoral support. They can also choose to make a formal report.

The #MeToo Task Force also has prepared a poster detailing the means for relating and reporting accounts of sexual misconduct in the church. Laminated copies of these posters have been mailed to all congregations for display in bathrooms, parish halls and offices. Additional posters are available by contacting Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations and Events, at [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 421.

The new resource materials will be available soon in Spanish.

The Episcopal Church has a canonical process for handling allegations of misconduct by active or retired clergy; in those cases, diocesan intake officers are in place to receive formal complaints, which, if material and substantial, lead to a disciplinary process. Find more information on the Title IV clergy disciplinary process [here](#).

Cases involving sexual abuse or harassment committed by lay persons or by former or now-deceased Episcopal Church clergy may be reported by sending an e-mail to [MeToo@diomass.org](mailto:MeToo@diomass.org) or by calling 617-482-4826, ext. 205; designated responders with professional expertise will be made available to those who wish to be contacted.

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

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## **Diocesan Convention to be held Nov. 2 in Boston**

*Deadline for resolutions, nominations is Friday, Sept. 6*

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

The 234th annual Diocesan Convention will take place on *Saturday, Nov. 2* in Boston at the Back Bay Events Center (180 Berkeley Street) and Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street). Preliminary convention information was e-mailed on June 27 to all clergy and delegates and is also online at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2019](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2019).

The deadline for submission of all convention materials—nomination papers, resolutions, proposed amendments to the diocesan constitution and canons, required reports from diocesan committees, and requests for display space—is **Friday, Sept. 6 by 5 p.m.**

This year's Diocesan Convention will be electing deputies to the Episcopal Church's 2021 General Convention, as well as members of numerous diocesan governing bodies and groups. More information about open positions and the official nomination form are available at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2019](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2019).

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 the convention are especially encouraged to participate. Forums are scheduled to take place *from 7 to 9 p.m. on:*

- *Tuesday, Oct. 8* at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth;
- *Wednesday, Oct. 9* at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield;
- *Wednesday, Oct. 16* at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston; and
- *Thursday, Oct. 17* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

*FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or [csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org)).*

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## **20s and 30s Task Force shares survey link**

The diocesan 20s and 30s Task Force, charged with examining successful models of engagement of adults in their 20s and 30s, is in the midst of the listening and study phase of its work. One aspect of that work is to hear from as many people in their 20s and 30s as possible via an online survey, available [here](#). The goal of the survey is to learn from people in this age group about their spiritual lives and experiences with church, to hear what they are seeking in their spiritual lives and identify ways that the church's culture needs to change in response.

Diocesan and congregational leaders are invited to share the survey with those in their networks who are in their 20s and 30s, regardless of any religious affiliation. The survey will be open until *Monday, July 15*.

The 20s and 30s Task Force will report its findings and recommendations at the Diocesan Convention in November.

*FOR INFORMATION: Sarah Neumann ([sneumann3@gmail.com](mailto:sneumann3@gmail.com)); The Rev. Suzanne Wade ([revsuzanne Wade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzanne Wade@gmail.com)); or The Rev. H. Mark Smith (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)).*

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**NOTES:**

- Events nationwide this year are marking 400 years since enslaved Africans were first landed in North America. Locally, the Massachusetts Council of Churches is coordinating **“May We Forever Stand,” an ecumenical worship service**, on *Friday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.*, at the Greater Framingham Community Church (44 Franklin Street) in Framingham. The preacher will be Bishop Claude Alexander, the senior pastor of the Park Church in Charlotte, N.C. All are welcome. An afternoon **preaching seminar**, “Preaching Black Resiliency,” with the Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan of St. Paul’s Baptist Church in Philadelphia, is also being planned that day (location to be announced).  
*FOR INFORMATION: Massachusetts Council of Churches (617-523-2771 or [council@masscouncilofchurches.org](mailto:council@masscouncilofchurches.org)).*

- The annual diocesan **Clergy Day** will be held on *Tuesday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The guest speaker will be Jerusalem Greer, Staff Officer for Evangelism, Office of the Presiding Bishop. Details, including registration information, will be forthcoming.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordination (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or [jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

- Retired clergy of the diocese, as well as their spouses and surviving spouses, are invited to gather at one of two **luncheon programs to be hosted this fall by the chaplains to retired clergy**: *Tuesday, Oct. 8* at St. Peter’s Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston and *Tuesday, Oct. 15* at St. David’s Church (205 Old Main Street) in South Yarmouth. Each will take place *from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.*, with Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris in attendance. RSVP to the Rev. Skip Windsor at [tuckernuck2@comcast.net](mailto:tuckernuck2@comcast.net).  
*FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org)).*

- **Summer weekday building hours are in effect at the diocesan and cathedral offices** at 138 Tremont Street in Boston, with the offices open Mondays-Thursdays and closed on Fridays. Some staff members are working extended hours in the office Monday-Thursday and are off on Friday; some are working regular hours in the office Monday-Thursday and from home on Friday. The regular Monday-Friday schedule will resume after Labor Day, on *Tuesday, Sept. 3*.

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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- The Episcopal Church's Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment has announced that its first set of **grants for new Episcopal communities** is now available for Episcopal dioceses and mission developers who are envisioning, planning or growing new worshipping communities and missional enterprises throughout the church. The grants are part of a \$2.5-million initiative funded by the 2018 General Convention that seeks to celebrate and strategically support emerging Episcopal Church communities and that builds partnerships within and beyond the church, expands the church's language of ministry and creates new ways for the church to engage the people of God.

Four categories of grants are available. *Monday, July 15* is the deadline for the first round of grant applications; after that, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through the end of the current ministry triennium in 2021.

More information and grant applications are available [here](#).

- **Nominations to serve as a member of the church's Executive Council** are now being accepted through *Wednesday, July 31* to fill a vacancy whose term concludes at General Convention 2021; only priests and deacons are eligible to fill this vacancy. Nominations should be submitted online [here](#) (English) or [here](#) (Español).

Candidates must be able to attend upcoming Executive Council meetings: In 2020, Feb. 13-15; June 8-11; and Oct. 9-12; and in 2021, Jan. 22-25; and April 14-17. More information is available [here](#). The Episcopal Church's Executive Council is an elected body that oversees the execution of the program and policies adopted by the General Convention.

- All Our Children, the national network devoted to public education advocacy and school-church partnerships, is in the process of ending its operations and programming, and is making its remaining financial assets available through a **small grant program**. **School-church partnerships or public education advocacy programs affiliated with the Episcopal Church** are invited to apply by *Thursday, Aug. 1*. Grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Find application information at [www.allourchildren.org/grants](http://www.allourchildren.org/grants).

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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)).

- **Applications for the 2018-2019 Diocesan Youth Council** (DYC) are now available; find instructions [here](#). All applications are due *Friday, Aug. 23*. Recruitment assistance is needed to achieve the most diverse council possible—geographically, liturgically, racially, culturally and otherwise.

Members of the Diocesan Youth Council are students in 10th through 12th grades who 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. They also act as the official youth presence at Diocesan Convention and model youth leadership in the life of our church.

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- **Looking ahead:** Dates for 2019-2020 youth ministry retreats are now set; see the “Events” section at [www.diomassyouth.org](http://www.diomassyouth.org). Ideas for additional events? Youth gatherings, online groups, networking or training for other youth workers? Contact the diocesan youth missionary, [the Rev. H. Mark Smith](mailto:the Rev. H. Mark Smith).

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## **TRAINING & LEARNING:**

- Two **stewardship trainings for lay leaders** will be offered in September:
  - *Thursday, Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m.*, at the diocesan offices (fifth floor) at 138 Tremont Street in Boston; and
  - *Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m.*, at St. Paul’s Church (39 East Central Street) in Natick.

All are welcome. These trainings are an opportunity to share experiences of stewardship best practices and review available resources for congregations. RSVP by e-mail (please indicate congregation) to the diocesan director of development, Bliss Austin Spooner, at [baustinspooner@diomass.org](mailto:baustinspooner@diomass.org).

*FOR INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or [baustinspooner@diomass.org](mailto:baustinspooner@diomass.org)).*

- **Save the date for Resource Day** on *Saturday, Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The theme will be “Way of Love: Formation, Evangelism and Discipleship.” Details, including registration information, will be forthcoming.

*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Office of Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or [mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org)).*

- The **fall Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. All clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts are expected to attend Safe Church Training once every three years. There is no fee for this refresher training but pre-registration is required. Find information and register online [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Office of Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or [mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org)).*

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## **DIOCESAN GRANTS & LOANS:**

- The application form and program information for **2020 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are now available online [here](#). Applications are due by *Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019*, for sabbaticals in 2020; award decisions will be announced by Nov. 15. Please submit applications to David Ames, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Suffragan, by e-mail at [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org) or by mail to him at the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Michael Hodges, Sabbatical Grant Committee (978-475-0529 or [mhodes@christchurchandover.org](mailto:mhodes@christchurchandover.org)).*

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- Applications for **2019 Deanery Grants** (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants) are available [here](#). Congregations should contact their deanery co-conveners for information on deadlines and how to submit applications. Award decisions must be submitted from deaneries to the diocesan office by *Tuesday, Oct. 15*.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or [lzook@diomass.org](mailto:lzook@diomass.org)).*
- There will be a second round of **2019 Sustainable Development Grants** in the fall. Applications are due on *Monday, Oct. 21*. The most recent version of the application form is available for reference [here](#); this form will be edited before the fall deadline.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or [lzook@diomass.org](mailto:lzook@diomass.org)).*
- There will be a second round of **2019 Mission Tithe Relationship Grants** in the fall. Applications are due on *Monday, Nov. 25*. The most recent version of the application form is available for reference [here](#); this form will be edited before the fall deadline.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or [lzook@diomass.org](mailto:lzook@diomass.org)).*

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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

*For more information visit the [Diocesan Council webpage](#).*

At its June 20 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee about its current goals.

Heard a presentation from the 20s and 30s Task Force about its current information-gathering work and the online survey that is open until July 15 ([here](#)) as a means of hearing from as many people in their 20s and 30s as possible.

Heard a report from the Mission Initiatives Committee about site visits to the MANNA community and the B-SAFE and B-PEACE programs.

Voted to include in the proposed budget for 2020 the following Mission Initiatives grants: \$12,900 for ProGente, Framingham; \$12,900 for KIC (Kids in Community), Lynn; \$12,900 for St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford; and \$5,200 for St. Peter's Church in Waltham.

Voted to direct the Assessment Formula Review Task Force to determine what changes to the assessment formula (if any) are recommended to Council for the 2021 budget (and/or subsequent years) and the factors which will be taken into consideration in forming the recommended formula.

Heard a treasurer's report about the draft budget for 2020.

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Voted to receive the 2018 Financial Audit Report.

Voted to appoint Thomas Moore as assistant treasurer of the diocese, term ending at the 2019 Diocesan Convention.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** *Saturday, Sept. 7, time and location to be announced.*

FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or [csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org)).

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## **JOB POSTINGS:**

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan website: [church school-youth coordinator](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth; [weekday sexton](#) at Trinity Church in Concord; [office manager](#) at St. James's Church in Cambridge; [organist-pianist](#) at St. Peter's Church in Buzzards Bay; [development associate](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Boston; two positions, [communications coordinator](#) and [office manager](#), at All Saints Church in Worcester (Diocese of Western Massachusetts); two positions, [lead science teacher](#) and [Life Together teaching fellow](#), at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; [custodian](#) at St. Paul's Church in Natick; [church school coordinator](#) at St. John's Church in Arlington; [minister of music](#) at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable; two positions, [director of music](#) and [director of education](#), at St. Michael's Church in Marblehead; [coordinator of children's and family ministries](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [music director](#) at St. Peter's Church in Weston; [director of youth ministry](#) at St. Paul's Church in Brookline; [music director](#) at Grace Church in Newton; [director of Christian education](#) at St. Mary's Church in Newton Lower Falls; [parish administrator](#) at St. Mark's Church in Foxborough; and three positions, [communications specialist](#), [grants manager](#) and [community organizer](#), at Episcopal City Mission.

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## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

Transition ministry is overseen by the regional canons.

Inquiries may be directed to them by e-mail to: [regionalcanons@diomass.org](mailto:regionalcanons@diomass.org).

Please also visit the [transition ministry webpage](#).

### **CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:**

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church  
CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church  
CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church  
FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit  
QUINCY, St. Chrysostom's Church  
WHITMAN, All Saints' Church  
WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

### **CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd  
MEDWAY, Christ Church  
NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church  
NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church  
SHARON, St. John's Church  
SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

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

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:**

BOSTON, Church of the Advent  
 LYNN, St. Stephen's Church  
 NATICK, St. Paul's Church  
 TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

NEWTON LOWER FALLS, St. Mary's Church

**OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**

SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church and WESTON, St. Peter's Church: [Curate](#)

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Dr. Derrick Muwina has completed his service as priest-in-charge at All Saints' Church in West Newbury and has been called as rector of St. Peter's Church in Cambridge.  
 The Rev. Rita Powell is completing her service at Trinity Church in Boston and has been called as chaplain of the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard.  
 The Rev. Joe Robinson has retired as rector of Christ Church in Cambridge.  
 The Rev. Garrett Yates has been called as rector of St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln and will begin there on Aug. 15.

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**NEXT *fyi*:**

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the Aug. 7 issue is *Wednesday, July 31 at noon*. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

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