



Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019

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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**Bishop encourages
response to immigration
policy crisis**

Bishop Alan M. Gates issued a letter to the diocesan community on July 24 regarding the ongoing national immigration policy crisis: “May God grant us the capacity to speak and act with courage, compassion and clarity. May we do so in our own day, not requiring the passage of a generation before acknowledging and decrying those places where our moral compass has failed us,” he said in the letter. He encourages everyone to respond as their abilities and conscience dictate, and his letter includes a resource list providing some ways to join, support and connect with others in this work, locally and churchwide. Find the letter online [here](#).

Also of note as the church at all levels seeks to be an agent of reconciliation and Christ’s peace with justice in the world:

- Bishops United Against Gun Violence, of which Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris are members, offers an updated **Litany in the Wake of a Mass Shooting**, “with the reminder that one does not pray in lieu of summoning political courage, but in preparation for doing so.” Find the litany and other liturgical resources online [here](#), and the coalition’s Aug. 6 statement [here](#).

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry invites Episcopal churches to toll their bells on *Sunday, Aug. 25 at 3 p.m.* as part of a **national action in remembrance of the first enslaved Africans** who were landed in North America 400 years ago. Details are online [here](#). See also page 3 for local event information.

**Resource Day set
to inspire formation,
evangelism & discipleship
via “Way of Love”
practices**

Online registration is open [here](#).

“[The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life](#)” will be featured at the diocesan 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. Every congregation is invited to gather a group and get ready for this inspiring program devoted to learning how the Way of Love practices can be used, individually and in congregations, for formation, evangelism and discipleship. Participants will also enjoy opportunities for peer-to-peer conversation, sharing and networking, and for building relationships through the ministries of the diocese and its congregations. Everyone is welcome, and a group discount is available. Find details and register online by *Wednesday, Sept. 25* [here](#).

Share the invitation: A publicity graphic for use in spreading the word about Resource Day through congregational newsletters, bulletins, websites and social media is available online [here](#).

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

**Diocesan Convention
nominations, resolutions
due by Sept. 6**

The deadline for submission of all Diocesan 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.

This year's 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).

Plan to attend a pre-convention forum in October

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).

**#MeToo response
materials available in
Spanish and English**

Posters and the online storytelling form developed by the diocesan #MeToo Task Force are now available in Spanish and English.

To support healing and create a more respectful and honest culture in congregations and the diocese, the #MeToo Task Force created the online form, available at www.diomass.org/MeToo, through which accounts of sexual misconduct in the church may be shared. Laminated copies of a poster that details the means for relating accounts of sexual misconduct in the church have been mailed to congregations; additional posters, in either English or Spanish, are available by contacting Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations and Events, at jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421.

The Episcopal Church has a canonical process in place 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 [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 or by calling 617-482-4826, ext. 205; designated responders with professional expertise will be made available to those who wish to be contacted.

Beware of e-mail and text message scams

Online impersonation scams that involve requests for gift cards or personal information continue to target churches and clergy, and they require continued awareness and vigilance.

A common tactic in these scams (also known as “phishing”) is to send e-mails or text messages that appear to be from a known and trusted organization or leader (in church contexts, the e-mails and text messages usually appear to be from the rector, cathedral dean or a bishop). The scam e-mails and text messages typically say that urgent help is needed and request that the recipient buy and electronically send gift cards, often from a specific company, such as Amazon, iTunes or Google Play. One recent version of the scam doesn’t mention gift cards in the initial message, but asks for a quick reply because a favor is needed.

These scam requests appear at first glance to come from a legitimate e-mail or messaging account of a known person. They usually convey a sense of urgency. They often incorporate familiar logos and signatures.

What to do:

- Inform your congregation about these phishing scams and reinforce the message that clergy and church leaders will never ask for emergency aid or donations in this way.
- Be skeptical of unexpected e-mail or text message requests to send or spend money.
- Read with caution any e-mail or text message that asks for gift cards. Look for tell-tale typos and grammatical mistakes, and double-check sender e-mail addresses and phone numbers for authenticity.
- If you believe a request may be authentic, call the requester to confirm, making sure to use a known phone number—not a phone number provided in the suspect message.
- Find more information about phishing scams, including how to report them, [here](#).

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** at which people of faith will gather to honor ancestors, commemorate 400 years of black resiliency and pray for an end to systemic racial injustice. All are welcome. The service takes place on *Friday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.*, at the Greater Framingham Community Church (44 Franklin Street) in Framingham.

An afternoon preaching class, **“Preaching Black Resiliency,”** with the Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan of St. Paul’s Baptist Church in Philadelphia, will be offered earlier that day, at noon, at People’s Baptist Church (134 Camden Street) in Boston. Class seating is limited; find class ticket and full event information [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Massachusetts Council of Churches (617-523-2771 or council@masscouncilofchurches.org).

- Online registration is now open, [here](#), for the annual diocesan **Clergy Day** on *Tuesday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Guest speaker Jerusalem Greer, Staff Officer for Evangelism, Office of the Presiding Bishop, will talk about the “[Way of Love, Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life](#)” that Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has invited Episcopalians to take up, including how the Way of Love approach was born, where it is going and why living the Way of Love as a community matters.

A resource table will be available at Clergy Day for printed materials that participants would like to share with colleagues about programs or upcoming events. Those who would like to make brief announcements after the afternoon Bishops’ Time segment are asked to forward their requests in advance to Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordination (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or 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.

FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or dames@diomass.org).

- The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, in partnership with its Ministry of the Steps, will be hosting an **all-day “yard” sale** on *Wednesday, Aug. 28*, open to the public and geared toward college students moving into nearby dorms. The goals are to clear out unused items that may be useful to others, build awareness about the cathedral church and raise a few dollars. Anyone who will be in downtown Boston that day is invited to stop by for conversation and browsing for a bargain.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Tamra Tucker, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (ttucker@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*.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Life Together**, the Episcopal Service Corps member program in the Diocese of Massachusetts, **is featured in the Episcopal Church's weekly bulletin inserts**, designated for use on *Sunday, Aug. 25* and a way to spread the word about opportunities for young adults ages 21-32 to live in intentional community and work for social justice in schools, nonprofits and churches, while also developing leadership skills, nurturing their spiritual growth and deepening community relationships. Find the bulletin insert online [here](#), and learn more about Life Together [here](#).

- Continuing the invitation to connect “The Way of Love, Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life” more deeply to the seasons of the year, **“Back-2-School” and “Back to Ministry” digital invitation kits are now available**. Each of these kits includes a customizable poster and postcard; social media-ready graphics and a video prayer message from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry which can be embedded on church websites.

The Way of Love is a set of formational spiritual practices—turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest—that Curry has invited Episcopalians to take up as a means toward living a more Jesus-centered life. Learn more at www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love.

- The **churchwide “Rooted in Jesus” conference**, *Tuesday-Friday, Jan. 21-24, 2020*, in Atlanta, aims to gather people from across the Episcopal Church as disciples of Jesus preparing to take bold steps forward in ministry. There will be conference tracks on discipleship, evangelism, formation, leadership, preaching, stewardship and communication. Find more information and online registration [here](#). People attending from the Diocese of Massachusetts who would like to take advantage of a group rate may contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, for details (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or mgardner@diomass.org).

- Oct. 1 is the application deadline for the next round of **Episcopal Evangelism Grants**, designed to fund local and regional evangelism efforts. The program, which began in 2017 as a result of the 2015 General Convention's increased investment in evangelism, awards up to \$2,000 for an individual congregation and up to \$8,000 for multichurch, diocesan and regional collaborations. The application and more information are available online [here](#).

Applications are also being accepted, on a rolling basis, for **grants for Episcopal dioceses and mission developers who are envisioning, planning or growing new worshiping communities and missional enterprises**. The grants are part of a \$2.5-million initiative funded by the 2018 General Convention that seeks to strategically support emerging Episcopal Church communities and that aims to build partnerships within and beyond the church, expand the church's language of ministry and create new ways for the church to engage the people of God. Four categories of grants are available. The application and more information are available online [here](#).

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).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Applications for the 2019-2020 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.

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at St. Andrew's Church (169 Belleville Road) in New Bedford. Find more information and register online [here](#). This training provides the required licensing to be a Eucharistic Visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained and authorized to administer the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. Those who are interested in hosting Eucharistic Visitor Training at their church or becoming a trainer are invited to contact Connie Melahoures at conmel@aol.com.

- Those using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd formation program for children are invited to take advantage of two upcoming training opportunities: **Level I Atrium Assistant Training** on *Saturday, Sept. 7, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish (160 Concord Road) in Sudbury (details and registration available by contacting Lucy Prunier at lucy@fatimasudbury.org or 508-988-0338) and **Level II Atrium Assistant Training** on *Saturday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at Christ Church (33 Central Street) in Andover (details and registration available by contacting the Rev. Jennifer Vath at jvath@christchurchandover.org). The Guild of the Good Shepherd, an ecumenical group devoted to supporting the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program throughout New England, can be contacted for more information. Visit www.cgsma.org.

- **Stewardship update and opportunities:** On behalf of its congregations, the Diocese of Massachusetts subscribes to The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), which provides templates, themes and other resources for congregational stewardship campaigns. These resources can be accessed at www.tens.org; use log-in *Matthew* and password *five:16*

All are welcome at these **fall stewardship trainings:**

- *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.

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These trainings are an opportunity to share stewardship best practices and review available resources for congregations. RSVP by e-mail to Bliss Austin Spooner, at baustinspooner@diomass.org, and note the congregation you are representing. If you have particular areas of interest, please note those too.

FOR INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or baustinspooner@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).

DIOCESAN GRANTS & LOANS:

- The application form and program information for **2020 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are 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 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 mhodges@christchurchandover.org).

- 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).

- 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).

- 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).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

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

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Saturday, Sept. 7, time to be announced*, at Trinity Church (81 Elm Street) in Concord.
FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or csmith@diomass.org).

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan website: [Godly Play teacher](#) at St. John's Church in Charlestown; [community organizer](#) at Episcopal City Mission; [nursery care provider](#) at St. John's Church in Arlington; two positions, [nursery worker](#) and [director of youth ministry](#), at St. Paul's Church in Brookline; [organist-music director](#) at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury; [church school coordinator](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton; [director of faith formation](#) at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; [director of family ministries](#) at St. Michael's Church in Milton; [director of family ministries](#) at St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth; [music director-organist](#) at St. Paul's Church in Hopkinton; [Godly Play coordinator](#) for Trinity Church in Canton and Trinity Church in Stoughton; [choir director](#) at St. James's Church in Groveland; [church school teacher](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waban; [executive director-community organizer](#) for the Mission Institute; [communications specialist and office manager](#) at St. Mark's Church in Southborough; two positions, [interim director of children and youth ministries](#) and [custodian](#), at St. Paul's Church in Natick; [church school-youth coordinator](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth; [office manager](#) at St. James's Church in Cambridge; [organist-pianist](#) at St. Peter's Church in Buzzards Bay; 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; [minister of music](#) at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable; [director of education](#) at St. Michael's Church in Marblehead; and [coordinator of children's and family ministries](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge.

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.

Please also visit the

[Transition Ministry webpage](#).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church
CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church
CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church
FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit
WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd
MEDWAY, Christ Church
NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church
QUINCY, St. Chrysostom's Church
SHARON, St. John's Church
WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church
MELROSE, Trinity Church
NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church
SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

BOSTON, Church of the Advent
HARWICH PORT, Christ Church
LYNN, St. Stephen's Church
NATICK, St. Paul's Church
NEWBURYPORT, St. Paul's Church
SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church
TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church
WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

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

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Rebecca Black has been appointed interim priest at St. John's Church in Charlestown.

The Rev. Billie Mae Gordon has been appointed interim priest at All Saints' Church in Whitman.

The Rev. Eric Litman has been appointed bridge priest at St. Chrysostom's Church in Quincy.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the Sept. 4 issue is **Wednesday, Aug. 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
