



Wednesday, May 6, 2020

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund is open to receive online gifts

Visit the regularly updated [COVID-19 Updates page](#) on the diocesan website for the latest directives, guidance and pastoral messages from the bishops, as well as links to a variety of online resources.

The Diocese of Massachusetts COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund remains open to receive contributions at www.diomass.org/give-now, and is helping to meet urgent needs and congregational sustainability during this time. Congregations are invited to continue publicizing this giving opportunity. The application for grants from this fund is available online [here](#).

Participate in this year's Budget Hearings via Zoom

As part of the process of building the 2021 diocesan budget, the Budget Committee will be holding Budget Hearings via Zoom this year, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on:

- Tuesday, May 19 (<https://zoom.us/j/98830517203>) and
- Wednesday, May 27 (<https://zoom.us/j/92405796673>).

These are open to all, and will be interactive events with time for Q&A. Questions and suggested topics for discussion may be e-mailed ahead of time to Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration, at csmith@diomass.org.

Ordination of deacons to take place June 5 & 6 via Zoom and webcast

The diocesan community's prayers and virtual presence are invited for the upcoming ordination of deacons, which, because of current public health circumstances, will be taking place in a new way this year, over the course of *Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6*.

The Liturgy of the Word portion of the ordination service will be conducted as an online gathering via Zoom on *Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m.* The examination and laying on of hands for the nine ordinands will take place as separate events at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston throughout the following day, *Saturday, June 6*, with in-person involvement of the primary participants only, to accommodate physical distancing protocols. Current plans call for a live webcast on Saturday so that family members, friends, sponsors and the wider diocesan community can join the proceedings online. The schedule, links and details will be posted as they become available at www.diomass.org/event/ordination-deacons-2020.

An offering will be collected for the Diocese of Massachusetts COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, to which gifts can be made online via www.diomass.org/give-now, with a dedication note indicating thanksgiving for the ordination of a particular individual or all the ordinands.

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Prayers are invited for these ordinands as they prepare (with their sponsoring congregation or community in parentheses):

For the Diaconate—Marilee Comerford (Trinity Church, Marshfield); Valerie Cowart (All Saints' Church, Chelmsford); James Thomas (St. John's Church, Sandwich); and Natalie Thomas (St. Christopher's Church, Chatham).

For the Transitional Diaconate—Lawrence Civalo (Church of the Advent, Boston); Luke Ditewig, SSJE (Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge); Tammany Hobbs-Miracky (St. Paul's Church, Brookline); Melissa Howell (Trinity Church, Boston); and Lauren Lukason (St. Paul's Church, Brookline).

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

Continuing mission strategy efforts support relationships, reimagination & engagement

- **“Wicked Good Idea” Microgrants** continue to be available as an invitation to congregations, networks and organizations in the diocese to try something new in their ministry context in support of the diocesan [mission strategy](#). The grants are a way to put some seed-money support behind ideas for how to do the work of Christ in new and creative ways. During this time of physical distancing, congregations may want to begin or expand virtual offerings, for example. While ideas of church have shifted somewhat in the current time, mission work continues, and this grant initiative, new this year, encourages everyone to think creatively about how to do that.

A total of \$20,000 is available for grants in 2020. Applications are received on a rolling basis for individual grants of \$500 to \$2,000. Find more information and the online application [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at missionstrategy@diomass.org.

- The series of one-hour **online book groups** that is underway will next take up *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict* by Donna Hicks, on *Wednesday, May 6, from 7 to 8 p.m.*

Next up in the series is discussion of *Joining God, Remaking Church and Changing the World* by Alan J. Roxburgh, on *Wednesday, June 10 from 7 to 8 p.m.*

Everyone is invited to join one or both of these discussion groups, inspired by diocesan [mission strategy](#) themes of reimagining congregations, building relationships and engaging the world.

E-mail Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org to receive the Zoom links.

NOTES:

- The 24th annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**, sponsored by the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#), is now an online fundraiser for the institute's services, advocacy and training in support of families and communities affected by homicide. The online event's goal is to raise a total of \$400,000 by *Mother's Day, May 10*. The Diocese of Massachusetts and its B-PEACE for Jorge campaign has had a strong presence at the event since 2013, and the community can still participate this year by supporting the B-PEACE for Jorge team [here](#). Find more information about the effort at www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Questions may be directed to bpeace@ssypboston.org.

- With a Supreme Court decision to come in regard to termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)—a program that allows those brought to the U.S. as children to remain in the country without fear of deportation—an online Zoom gathering is being planned for *Sunday, May 10, 5-7 p.m.* It will be an **opportunity for beneficiaries of DACA status, supporters and the wider community to come together** for an evening of sharing, prayer, learning and mutual support.

The group will hear from Alexandra Pineros-Shields, Ph.D., on the history of DACA and DREAM Act status. Participants are asked to prepare food to show and recipes to share. Find more information and sign up online [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- **Mark Rogation Days, May 18-20:** The Creation Care Justice Network in the diocese encourages marking upcoming [Rogation Days](#), *Monday-Wednesday, May 18-20*, as a time for acknowledging global connectedness, dependence on God's creation for food and sustenance of all kinds and the need for God's blessing. Congregations might designate a day or days and encourage people to create rituals, asking God's blessing on seeds or seedlings, making processions around their gardens or saying the litany on their morning walk. Prayers can be found in the [Book of Occasional Services](#) (pp. 88-111) and in this [Church of England resource](#). People are invited to post photos on social media, including the [Episcopalians Caring for Creation Facebook page](#).

- **"Encounters in the Holy Land,"** the mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine led by Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria, is currently still scheduled for *Oct. 5-16*. An update on the status of the trip will be provided next month.

FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).

CHURCHWIDE:

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's weekly **"Habits of Grace" video messages** continue on Mondays through May, inviting the cultivation of habits of grace as we learn to adjust our lives during this time of pandemic. The videos and sign-up are available [here](#).
- The Episcopal Church's **Task Force on Theology of Money** is gathering the theologies of money present within the church, as part of the work assigned to it by the 2018 General Convention's [Resolution 2018-A061](#). The task force seeks to understand how the Christian faith of Episcopalians is expressed in, not expressed in or held in tension with individuals' relationships with money. A short survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). All voices are important to this process. Responses are requested by June 1.
- The **Joint Standing Committee for Nominations for General Convention is still accepting nominations** for: members of the Court of Review, Disciplinary Board for Bishops, Executive Council, General Board of Examining Chaplains, and Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop; trustees of the Church Pension Fund and General Theological Seminary; secretary of the the House of Deputies; and treasurer of General Convention. The application and links to position descriptions are available [here](#). The application deadline has been extended yet again, now to **May 31, 2020**; elections will be held at the 80th General Convention in Baltimore, Md., *June 30–July 9, 2021*.
- The current version of the **Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs is now available online in both English and Spanish** [here](#). The manual is a tool to support the efforts of administrators and vestries as they perform their responsibilities of financial oversight and stewardship, and includes information on sound, practical internal controls, accounting guidelines and business practices. A print version may be ordered for \$20 by e-mailing nduverseau@episcopalchurch.org.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries:

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

- **Our World, Our Future:** Outreach ministries across the diocese are stretched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; meanwhile, young people with hunger for justice and community service are looking to do something. "Our World, Our Future" is a newly designed effort to help organize youth groups, individual young people and others to support outreach efforts according to their abilities and interests, all while maintaining recommended physical distancing protocols.

The Office of Youth Ministry is developing an online catalog of service opportunities, categorized in four ministry areas: feeding and gifting; companioning; fundraising; and advocacy.

For more information and additional tools to help implement this campaign in congregations and at home, visit the ["Our World, Our Future" webpage](#).

- **Looking ahead to 2020-2021:** Even in the uncertainties of present days, the diocesan youth ministry staff, the Diocesan Youth Council and others are discussing what programs, services, events and other opportunities will be most helpful to congregations, youth leaders and young people of the diocese. Are there ways that the structure and workings of the Diocesan Youth Council can better fulfill its mandate to be the voice and presence of young people in the diocese? Are there ways in which current retreat offerings can be reoriented or revamped to be more relevant for today's young people living in a COVID-19-affected world? Ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome, as is participation in this ongoing conversation. Contact the diocesan youth missionary, the Rev. H. Mark Smith (hmsmith@diomass.org).

- Join with youth ministry and children's formation colleagues from around the diocese—ordained and lay, paid and volunteer, part time and full time—to share ideas, questions and concerns during this period and new way of doing remote-access ministry. This is an **ongoing weekly series, focusing on youth ministry one week and children's formation the next, every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.** Find the Zoom links [here](#). Upcoming youth ministry online gatherings: *May 7* (topic: ways to acknowledge and mark graduations and other end-of-year rights of passage), *May 21*, *June 4 and 18* (suggest topics and direct questions to the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org). Upcoming children's formation online gatherings: *May 14, 28 and June 11* (direct questions to Martha Gardner at mgardner@diomass.org).

- Growing out of the work of the diocesan Young Adult Advisory Committee, the **Young Adult Network** is made up of young Episcopalians in their 20s and 30s as well as those who minister with them in the Diocese of Massachusetts. The network aims to foster connections among young adults and those who minister to them in organized settings, including congregation-based groups, campus ministries and the Life Together Episcopal Service Corps program. The Young Adult Advisory Committee oversees the network and supports it by offering leadership, publishing periodic announcements via an opt-in Constant Contact e-mail list, moderating a [Facebook group](#) and organizing occasional meet-ups and other gatherings around the diocese.

FOR INFORMATION/TO GET INVOLVED: Sarah Neumann, Young Adult Advisory Committee Co-Chair (sneumann3@gmail.com).

- Registration is open for the **Oasis: Young Adult and Campus Ministries Leadership Conference**, *June 23-26*. This annual leadership conference will take place online this year and is designed for Episcopal Church leaders in ministry with young adults (ages 18-30) on and off college campuses. It offers opportunities to meet, connect and be nourished and nurtured in ministry.

The conference fees have been waived. For more information or to register, click [here](#). The registration deadline is June 8.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Mission Strategy "Wicked Good Idea" Microgrants:**
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- **Scholarship grants for children of clergy:** Children of clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for scholarship grants for undergraduate degree programs for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applications are due to lsimons@diomass.org by *Friday, May 8*. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by *Friday, June 5*. The Statement of Policy and Procedure, which is the basis for making awards, and the Student Personal and Financial Profile, which all applicants are asked to complete, are available online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gates (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482- 4826, ext. 407).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its April 23 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update about the diocesan response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Voted to endorse appointments to the Mission Initiatives Committee and subcommittees.

Voted to endorse the adjusted budget timeline.

Voted to approve actions necessary for the diocese to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program.

Heard a report about the Cape and Islands Deanery.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting via Zoom: *Thursday, May 21, 6 p.m.*
FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Joseph Mumita completed his time as priest-in-charge at Grace Church in Everett on Easter Day and started as rector of St. Thomas's Church in Taunton on April 19.

The Rev. Melissa Remington completed her work as supply priest at St. John's Church in Saugus on Easter Day, and the Rev. John Beach has begun as bridge priest there.

All in-person aspects of searches (such as interviews and visits), as well as priest-in-charge placement processes, are on hold through May 12. The in-person portion of the process is important enough to warrant waiting until it is safe to conduct.

These are the parts of the search and priest-in-charge placement processes which can move forward now:

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- Writing of the profile based on data collected before physical distancing restrictions
- Posting of profile and taking resumes
- Phone conversations with applicants
- Zoom or Skype interviews
- Culling of long lists of applicants to semi-finalist lists
- Initiating Oxford Document background checks
- Other evaluative processes necessary to the process that take place without in-person contact
- Assistant/associate/priest-in-charge hiring processes, where in-person interviews were already complete

Congregations in search are encouraged to have a conversation with their regional canon about their particular situations before taking steps forward, as the regional canons are here to help in these complicated times.

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

BOSTON, Christ Church (Old North)

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.

BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *half-time*

MEDWAY, Christ Church *one-third-time*

WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd *full-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.

None at this time.

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:

BROOKLINE, All Saints Parish: Full-time family minister/assistant rector/curate. Contact the Rev. Richard Burden at rector@allsaintsbrookline.org.

Northern and Western Region
 Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
 TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd *full-time*
 MELROSE, Trinity Church *three-quarters-time redeveloper*
 WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany *full-time*

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.

HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*

LYNN, St. Stephen's Church *full-time*

MALDEN, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*

NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church *half-time*

SAUGUS, St. John's Church *half-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.

None at this time.

Southern Region
 Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*
 SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *full-time*

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church *half-time*

MARION, St. Gabriel's Church *full-time*

QUINCY, Parish of St. Chrysostom *full-time*

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*

FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*

SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour *two-thirds time*

WHITMAN, All Saints' Church *half-time*

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CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.

None at this time.

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity half-time

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the June 3 issue is **Wednesday, May 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
