



Wednesday, Aug. 5, 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](#)

Sept. 10 deadline set for Diocesan Convention nominations, resolutions

Visit [www.diomass.org/
diocesan-convention-2020](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020)
for registration, materials &
updates.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's annual Diocesan Convention, on *Saturday, Nov. 7*, will take place online via Zoom and livestreaming. Online registration is open, [here](#), until Oct. 30.

Preliminary convention information was e-mailed to clergy and delegates on July 17, and is also available at [www.diomass.org/
diocesan-convention-2020](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020), where additional information and updates are posted as they become available.

Delegates and clergy whose e-mail address has changed since their congregation's annual meeting should e-mail their updated contact information to csmith@diomass.org.

The deadline for all proposed resolutions, nominations for positions to be filled by election and required reports is *Thursday, Sept. 10 by 5 p.m.*

This year's convention will elect alternate deputies to the next Episcopal Church General Convention, as well as secretary and treasurer of the diocese and members of Provincial Synod, Standing Committee, the Diocesan Disciplinary Board, Cathedral Chapter, the Barbara C. Harris Center Board of Directors and the Trustees of Donations. Find more information about **open positions** [here](#) and the **nomination form** [here](#).

A **modified resolutions process**, reflecting this year's special circumstances, will provide online opportunities for discussing and refining proposed resolutions prior to their presentation in final form for vote at the convention. There will be an **open comment period Sept. 24-29 and two online meetings via Zoom** for voting members to discuss proposed resolutions, on *Monday, Sept. 28 and Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.* Find additional details about this year's resolutions process [here](#).

In addition, the regular series of **pre-convention forums** for clergy and delegates will be held online via Zoom in October for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention. Forums will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on:

- *Tuesday, Oct. 6*: Cape and Islands and Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay deaneries;
- *Wednesday, Oct. 7*: Taunton River and South Shore deaneries;
- *Thursday, Oct. 8*: Charles River and Alewife deaneries;
- *Tuesday, Oct. 13*: Neponset River and Boston Harbor deaneries;
- *Wednesday, Oct. 14*: Mystic Valley and North Shore deaneries;
- *Thursday, Oct. 15*: Merrimack Valley and Concord River deaneries
- A daytime forum will also be held on *Friday, Oct. 9, 2-3:30 p.m.*

Zoom links will be sent out in the fall.

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

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Episcopal Church Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation has announced the availability of **“rapid response” grants to address the racial disparities laid bare by the coronavirus pandemic and for groups responding to racist violence and policing reform.**

These grants are drawn from funds allocated by General Convention in 2018. Applications are now being received, and will be reviewed and granted regularly leading up to the **Aug. 15 deadline**. Requests may total up to \$10,000, and may cover programmatic and direct service activities. Priority will be placed on work done in long-term partnership within underserved communities. Congregations, dioceses, provinces, schools, seminaries, monastic communities and other Episcopal entities may apply.

Criteria and the application process are online [here](#). Learn more about Episcopal Church work on “Becoming Beloved Community” at www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community, and see resources for “Responding to Racist Violence and Police Brutality” at www.episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence.

FOR INFORMATION: Advisory Group on Beloved Community Co-Chairs—The Rev. Edwin Johnson (padreedwinj@gmail.com) and The Rev. Meg Wagner (mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org), or Sarah Alphin, Associate for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care (salphin@episcopalchurch.org).

- **“Be Part of the Picture”:** The Episcopal Church and the Church Pension Group (CPG) are to begin collecting **data on race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation from all clergy**. The data will be used to assist the church in capturing a fuller picture of deployment and compensation matters, including episcopal elections. Responding to resolutions adopted by the 79th General Convention ([2018-C029](#), [D005](#), [D037](#) and [D069](#)), CPG has updated its technology systems so it can collect the requested demographic information that it did not collect previously. The newly requested data will only be used for analysis and reported in aggregate form. It will not be published or used to administer benefits, and will not be printed in the Episcopal Clerical Directory. Clergy can visit cpg.org/picture to update their profile and learn more.

- **“Vote Faithfully” election engagement:** Getting souls to the polls isn’t just about casting our own vote, but about working together so everyone can vote and vote faithfully, according to election engagement resources provided by the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations, available [here](#). They include a Vote Faithfully/Vote Fielmente 2020 Toolkit, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), to help congregations get out the vote in their communities.

In Massachusetts, the deadline to register to vote is 10 days before the election date. Vote-by-mail applications are due by Aug. 26 for the primary election and by Oct. 28 for the general election. Find more information on voting and voter registration in Massachusetts [here](#).

NOTES:

- As part of its commitment to voter registration and getting out the vote, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will be **celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage**. In partnership with the League of Women Voters of Boston, the cathedral will hold a brief, physically distanced and festive gathering to mark the occasion on *Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 1 p.m.* on the cathedral plaza. The gathering will include music, brief addresses, prayers in thanksgiving for women's voices and role in our civic life and for the ongoing work of protecting and broadening the right to vote for all. The cathedral plans to livestream the event on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
 - **Sermon videos available to congregations:** The bishops, canons on diocesan staff and cathedral dean are remotely self-recording video sermons, for use by congregations in online worship offerings on summer Sundays. Each week's sermon is available by mid-week. E-mail news@diomass.org for the download link. Additionally, the staff at the [Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center](#) has produced a **BCH Camp Sunday Service video**, with sermon by Bishop Alan M. Gates, for use by congregations and groups this summer. E-mail Jon Ingalls at jon@bchcenter.org with questions about the Camp Sunday video.
 - The Creation Care Justice Network in the diocese will be focusing on environmental racism for **"Creation Justice Season"** beginning *Sept. 1* (to align with the World Council of Churches' Season of Creation observance). The network encourages congregations to use September and October to incorporate themes around environmental racism into worship, education and action, and will be collecting and sharing resources. Anyone who has environmental justice stories, poems, artwork or worship materials to share is invited to e-mail Dawn Tesorero at rangerdawn@gmail.com.
 - **Clergy colleague support opportunities:** Since last fall the regional canons have been working on providing options for clergy who want to participate in colleague groups or other forms of colleague support. They have been working with Nicholas Munn of the Center for Career Development and Ministry to put this plan in place. They offer thanks to all clergy who filled out surveys last fall at Clergy Day and follow-up surveys since. Those who indicated a desire to be part of a colleague group or other support activity will be receiving an e-mail directly from Nicholas Munn as he helps the regional canons launch these groups. Those who are new to the diocese, or who have been around awhile but would like to know more about this initiative, are invited to contact the Rev. Canon Martha Hubbard (mhubbard@diomass.org) or Nicholas Munn (nikmunn@gmail.com).
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- **Clergy Professional Development Days**, postponed from May, are being offered online via Zoom for all diocesan clergy, in two parts. Find upcoming August and September session dates and registration links [here](#).

Part I features guest presenter Donna Hicks, Ph.D., of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and author of *Leading With Dignity* and *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*. All diocesan clergy are encouraged to register for Part I; attendance for both Part I and Part II (the Safe Church review) is required for any clergy due for a Safe Church refresher. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- The annual diocesan **Clergy Day** will be an online gathering on *Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.* Registration is open online, [here](#), until Oct. 1.

Through a mix of presentations and small group conversations, a morning session—“Building Emotional and Spiritual Resilience in a Time of Intersecting Social and Ecological Challenges,” led by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas—will explore a framework for becoming compassionate, prophetic leaders who are willing and able to take up the mantle of moral leadership that this decisive moment in history requires. The afternoon session will include optional discussion groups, time with the bishops and important announcements. *FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).*

- Beginning this fall the Diocese of Massachusetts will be rolling out **new opportunities for lay discernment and formation**.

The first offering is a partnership with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and its [Loving the Questions](#) program. Loving the Questions is for people who want to explore God’s call to all baptized persons to grow deeper in discipleship by discovering how particular life experiences, individual gifts and passions connect with God’s mission. Loving the Questions offers opportunities for reflection and self-exploration, spiritual practice and creative ways to think about areas of ministry, both in congregational life and in the world.

There is space for 10 participants from the Diocese of Massachusetts. The group typically will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. *beginning on Sept. 9.* The cost is \$200 for the year; financial assistance is available.

Applications are due Sept. 1.

Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, with Craig Hammond from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, will host an hour-long **informational webinar** on *Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m.* Contact Martha Gardner, as below, to register and to receive the Zoom link for the informational webinar, and for more information and an application to join Loving the Questions. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- **RenewalWorks**, a ministry program of Forward Movement, helps congregations refocus on spiritual growth through a guided methodology of self reflection, sharing and workshop discussion. The shape that a participating congregation's focus takes reflects its particular challenges and opportunities, discerned from an analysis of surveys completed by congregation members.

The next RenewalWorks launch date is Sept. 20. Cost for Diocese of Massachusetts congregations can be subsidized to \$250 (half the full program cost). Find more information about the program [here](#).

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

- The Diocese of Massachusetts provides an annual membership for all of its worshipping communities to **The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)**—a helpful resource for congregations of all sizes. The access information for 2020 is: www.tens.org

Username: 1PETER

Password: FOUR:10

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

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

- Do you know new or returning college students who are or who might be interested in connecting with an Episcopal campus ministry? **Episcopal campus ministers** would love to welcome students to their schools and help them connect with community:

- Boston College: The Rev. Megan Holding (megan.holding@bc.edu)
- Boston University: The Rev. Dr. Karen Coleman (revkaren@bu.edu)
- Harvard University: The Rev. Rita Powell (rita@harvardepiscopalians.org)
- MIT: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas (theakl@mit.edu)
- Northeastern University: The Rev. Megan Holding (m.holding@northeastern.edu)
- Tufts University: The Rev. Dan Bell (daniel.bell@tufts.edu)
- University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth: The Rev. Scott Ciosek (stpetersdartmouth@gmail.com)
- Wellesley College: The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole (srobbins3@wellesley.edu)

The campus ministers invite inquiries and are happy to get in touch directly with students who are comfortable having their contact details shared.

Visit the [Campus Ministries page](#) on the diocesan website to learn more about individual ministries. Additionally, the [Episcopal Church Young Adult and Campus Ministries webpage](#) has information about lots of campus ministries.

- **“Learning to Walk with God in This World”:** Young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to save *Saturday, Oct. 3* for an online retreat introducing practices of discernment for attending to God’s will in our lives and life decisions. Facilitator will be author and Virginia Theological School adjunct faculty member Dr. Kathy Staudt. Registration will be available soon.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Isaac Martinez, Young Adult Ministry Advisory Committee Co-Chair (imartinez@stpaulsbrookline.org) or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **Dismantling Racism: Youth Curriculum:** Registration is now open for online training in September, free to youth workers in the Diocese of Massachusetts interested in facilitating the “Dismantling Racism: Youth Curriculum” for grades 6-12, a resource designed by the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Atlanta in partnership with the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing.
Two courses will be offered, each comprising two sessions: *Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 15 and 16 from 1 to 4 p.m.*, and *Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 22 and 23 from 6 to 9 p.m.* Congregational teams of at least two people are encouraged. Space is limited. More information on the curriculum is available [here](#).
Find registration and more information about introductory anti-racism training prerequisites [here](#).

- **Applications for the new Diocesan Youth Council (DYC):** The DYC is being restructured this year, with several teams devoted to designated responsibilities and commitments, outlined [here](#). Please help recruit young people ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry at the diocesan level. The DYC application is available [here](#) and accepted on a rolling basis, with a planned first meeting (likely online) in mid-October.
DYC seats on Diocesan Council open: Two members of the Diocesan Youth Council sit as full voting members of Diocesan Council. Both of those positions are currently open. Young people interested in being involved in governance at the diocesan level are encouraged to apply to the DYC’s Church Governance Team.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Diocesan Youth Missioner (hmsmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).

- **Online youthworker and children’s formation gatherings continue:** The ongoing online youthworker gatherings will be held on the *third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m.* Next gatherings are scheduled for *Aug. 20 and Sept. 17*. To suggest topics, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.
Online gatherings for children’s formation colleagues currently are taking place twice a month, *Thursdays, Aug. 6 and 27 at 3:30 p.m.* Direct questions and suggestions for the children’s formation sessions to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org.
Visit www.diomassyouth.org/events for meeting links.

- **Our World, Our Future:** This online outreach ministry campaign continues to help 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 online catalog includes service opportunities in four ministry areas: feeding and gifting; companioning; fundraising; and advocacy. The campaign recently highlighted contacting legislators as a way to make a difference at the state and local level. For more information and additional tools to help implement this campaign in congregations and at home, visit the [“Our World, Our Future” webpage](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- The criteria for grants from the **Diocese of Massachusetts COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund** have been expanded to include assistance with building technological capacity. The grant committee continues to welcome applications from congregations and organizations, including ecumenical, interfaith and community partnerships, affiliated with the Diocese of Massachusetts. Grant requests, for up to \$5,000, are considered on the 1st and 15th day of each month. Find more information and the online grant application [here](#).

- **“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. 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.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Actions from the July 30 Diocesan Council meeting will be published in the September issue of *fyi*.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Saturday, Sept. 12* via Zoom. Times to be announced.

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

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. David Bruce has been appointed priest in charge at St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford.
The Rev. Brad Hultman has completed his interim ministry at the Church of the Holy Nativity in South Weymouth.
The Rev. Greg Perez has been appointed priest in charge at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn.
The Rev. Laurie Rofinot will begin as bridge priest at the Church of the Holy Nativity, South Weymouth.
The Rev. Eleanor Terry has been called as rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

BOSTON, Christ Church (Old North)
CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul *(Priest-in-Charge)*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.
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:

WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd: [Assistant Rector](#)

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

Continued on page 9

*Continued from page 8***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**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*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 *half-time***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:***None at this time.***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church *half-time*FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*MARION, St. Gabriel's Church *full-time*SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour *two-thirds time*WHITMAN, All Saints' Church *half-time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

QUINCY, Parish of St. Chrysostom

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.**None at this time.***NEXT *fyi*:***fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the Sept. 2 issue is **Wednesday, Aug. 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.