



Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020

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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[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

Mission strategy review survey coming in new year

At the beginning of 2021, the diocesan [mission strategy team](#) will be soliciting engagement and feedback on the current mission strategy, adopted in 2016. Per diocesan canons, the current mission strategy is up for review in 2021—an opportunity to make revisions or additions for the 2021 Diocesan Convention. The team will be distributing a survey, as well as ways to engage with the content of the mission strategy in light of the current pandemic. Be on the lookout for more information soon. In the meantime, refresh your knowledge of the current strategy goals and actions online [here](#).

New priests to be ordained

The diocesan community's prayers are invited for these upcoming ordinations to the priesthood:

- The Rev. Luke Ditewig, SSJE on *Saturday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.*, Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge;
- The Rev. Larry Civale on *Saturday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.*, St. Paul's Church, Chester, Penn.;
- The Rev. Lauren Lukason on *Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.*, St. Paul's Church, Brookline;
- The Rev. Tammy Hobbs-Miracky on *Saturday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m.*, All Saints Parish, Brookline; and
- The Rev. Melissa Howell on *Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.*, Grace Church, New Bedford.

Please contact each hosting congregation or community directly about service details, as gathering and online arrangements will be different for each.

Registration is open for Ministry Discernment Conference

Online registration is now open, [here](#), for the annual Ministry Discernment Conference hosted by the Commission on Ministry, which will be held as a videoconference on *Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.* The conference provides an in-depth look at the 2021 edition of the Ministry Discernment Handbook, and gives potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts as they consider whether their call is to ordained ministry or committed lay ministry.

Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2021 is required to attend the conference, along with a sponsoring priest and at least one member of the Parish Discernment Committee. Inquirers are also encouraged to bring their spouses or partners to the conference.

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

NOTES:

- **Actions of the Diocesan Convention**, held on *Saturday, Nov. 7*, are available online. Find video links, the bishop's annual address, resolutions in final form, election results and materials at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020.

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

- The updated **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** for Advent 2020-Pentecost Season 2021 is now available and posted on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/prayer-cycles.

- Diocesan musicians will be recording **“O Come, all ye Faithful”** for congregations to use as an opening hymn or anthem in their online worship offerings. The video will be available after Dec. 21. For information on how to access the video, e-mail Louise Mundinger, the music director for the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, at lmundinger@diomass.org.

- **“Space for Jesus” Online Advent Quiet Day:** The dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts are co-sponsoring an online Advent Quiet Day on *Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*, led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ.

Participants will be invited to step away from daily tasks and concerns in order to listen with full attention to the Spirit's movement within. The time will include presentations and guided meditations, with options for solitary reflection (indoors or out) or small group conversation. This online retreat is open to all, free of charge. Register online [here](#).

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

- “Discerning My Path” is a **new lay discernment opportunity launching in January 2021** for anyone yearning for a deeper relationship with God and wondering about what they have to offer the world and how to listen deeply enough to hear God's desire.

The Diocese of Massachusetts joins other New England dioceses in Province I in partnering with Bexley-Seabury Seminary to offer this six-month lay discernment program. In addition to monthly online meetings in small groups, participants will engage with spiritual reading, videos and articles on discernment, spiritual practices and the ministry of the baptized. Cost is \$200; financial assistance is available upon request. E-mail Martha Gardner (as below) for registration information.

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

- **Congregational Consultants host series of Zoom calls on the practical aspects of congregational leadership:** These will include topics of interest to vestries and particularly to wardens and treasurers. The upcoming session, led by congregational consultant and parish auditor Terry Robinson, will focus on “What to Do in December and January” in terms of **year-end financial and closing matters**, and will be offered on *Saturday, Dec. 5* ([register online here](#)) from 9 to 10 a.m.

January’s session, on *Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 9 a.m.*, led by the Rev. Robert Edson, will focus on **annual meetings** ([register online here](#)). Find out required and suggested content, administrative considerations and tips for making your meeting useful, efficient and fun. This call is recommended for those who are grappling with how to handle the annual meeting in the age of COVID-19 and those who just want to fine tune their usual meetings. These sessions will be recorded for later access.

- The **Working Group on Adolescent Mental Health** plans to offer a series of **pre-recorded sermons** that any congregation or youth group in the diocese can use on the *Sundays from Jan. 17 to Feb. 14*. A diverse group of preachers from around the diocese will prepare sermons for adolescents that will also be appropriate for adults listening along. The goal is to center and support young people and speak to them pastorally during a very challenging and isolating time. Access information will be announced.

FOR INFORMATION: The Very Rev. Amy McCreath (amccreath@diomass.org) or The Rev. Christopher Whiteman (whiteman@trinity-concord.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- **80th General Convention postponed to 2022:** The Episcopal Church’s 80th General Convention, the church’s triennial governance gathering that was to have taken place this upcoming summer, has been postponed to *July 7-14, 2022*, in Baltimore, Md., according to a Nov. 20 announcement from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings. Read their letter [here](#).

In preparation, the presiding officers announced, an online convocation of worship and prayer will be held in summer 2021, and legislative committees will be appointed in 2021 and charged with beginning their work virtually. An online election will also be held in 2021 to choose members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, so that that group will have ample time to complete its work before the 81st General Convention in 2024, when the church will choose a new presiding bishop.

- **Special 2020 Parochial Report form:** The form for the 2020 Parochial Report is now viewable on the General Convention website in English [here](#), in Spanish [here](#) and in French [here](#).

The filing site will be live on *Jan. 2, 2021*. Parochial Reports will be due to dioceses by *March 1*, and to the General Convention Office by *May 1*.

Releasing the new form at this time offers congregational leaders time to review the new questions and to begin gathering the information needed to complete the report. The 2020 report includes a new narrative section, which invites congregations to reflect on the opportunities and challenges encountered in the midst of the pandemic. Also new are questions about online worship and questions on the impact the pandemic has had on congregational life and finances. The report also asks about the congregation's involvement in racial justice and reconciliation work.

The 2020 Parochial Report, along with an updated Diocesan Report, was developed by the House of Deputies State of the Church Committee and approved by Executive Council in October.

- The Church Pension Group (CPG) has released its **2019 Episcopal Clergy Compensation Report** (www.cpg.org/research), which offers an in-depth look at demographic and geographic differences in clergy compensation across the church. The report includes compensation categorized by region, age, gender, employment status, parish size and operating revenue. For the first time, this year's report also breaks down data by gender at a diocesan level and provides compensation figures for all international clergy. The report was updated to include an interactive online version with a map-based graphic interface to allow viewers a faster and easier way to access information.

Be a part of the picture: In preparation for its 2020 report, CPG is now collecting data on race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation from all clergy. These efforts will allow it to build out a more robust report and assist the church in understanding how different clergy groups are treated in terms of compensation. All clergy are encouraged to visit www.cpg.org/picture and update their profiles on the MyCPG Accounts portal.

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

- Does your congregation have a young adult ministry group? Or, a few young adults who would benefit from connecting with others in the area and diocese? **Young Adult Network Organizers** are now doing outreach to build a catalog of ongoing ministries and a list of individuals who seek connection with others their age in an Episcopal context. This work will be important to the Young Adult Advisory Committee as it sets its priorities and work plans for 2021. Contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith, Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at hmsmith@diomass.org to be counted or to get more information.

- **“Masks On, Masks Off” Virtual Retreat for Youth:** Young people across the diocese are invited to join for a half-day online gathering on *Sunday, Dec. 13, 2-7 p.m.*, to connect with peers through deep conversations, prayer and games.

From 2 to 4 p.m., small groups, led by members of the Diocesan Youth Council, will talk about the masks we all wear these days: the ones we put on to protect each other, and the ones we put up to hide how we really feel. Participants will also have a chance to talk about the impact that the pandemic is having and share ideas for mental health and self-care. The retreat will break for an hour and resume at 5 p.m. for fun games, ending the evening with a short service of Compline. Participants can choose one session or the other, or both. Registration is free but required, [here](#).

- **Online youthworker and children’s formation gatherings continue:** The **ongoing online youth worker gatherings** are held on the *third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m.* The next meeting will be *Thursday, Dec. 17*. To suggest topics for youth ministry sessions, or to volunteer to demonstrate a game or activity or lead a discussion, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.

Online **gatherings for children’s formation colleagues** are continuing on a twice-monthly basis. Next gatherings are scheduled at *3:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10, and Jan. 7*. 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. For more information and additional tools to help implement this campaign in congregations and at home, visit the [“Our World, Our Future” webpage](#).
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DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Oct. 22 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about congregational assessments.

Voted to extend the pay-out timetable for the remaining funding for the Roxbury-Dorchester Power in Community mission hub, as necessitated by the pandemic.

Heard a report from the Racial Justice Commission.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.

Heard an update about Diocesan Convention planning.

Heard a report about the Provincial Synod gathering.

Thanked the outgoing members of Diocesan Council, the Rev. Debbie Phillips, Rob Kelleher and Sister Kristina Frances, SSM.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m., via Zoom.

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

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **global mission grants** are due Dec. 15. Find application information [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Holly Hartman (hhartman@diomass.org) or The Rev. Marilyn McMillan (mmcmillan@diomass.org).

- **Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants:** The application form and program information for 2021 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants are available online [here](#). Applications are due by *Monday, Dec. 14, 2020*, for sabbaticals in 2021; award decisions will be announced by *Jan. 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: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas (theakl@mit.edu) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole (sjrobbinscole@gmail.com), Sabbatical Grants Committee.

- **Episcopal Church United Thank Offering (UTO) grant** applications for 2021 are now available, [here](#). The focus of this year's grants is "Recovering with Love and Gratitude: An Episcopal Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Local Contexts." To respond as quickly as possible, the UTO awarded a first round of grants in October, with a second round to be awarded in April 2021. Each diocese may submit only one application in each of two funding categories, so those intending to apply should be in touch with Martha Gardner (as below) by *Friday, Jan. 8*. The deadline to submit the complete application to her is *Friday, Feb. 5*.

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

**CLERGY SEARCH &
CALL REPORT:**
Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Christopher Capaldo has been called as rector of St. Chrysostom's Church in Quincy.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.

MEDWAY, Christ Church *part-time*

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, St. Paul's Parish

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

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

None at this time.

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:

LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer: [Clergy assistant](#)

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel 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.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:*Contact the regional canon to be considered.*HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church *quarter-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*SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour *two-thirds time*WHITMAN, All Saints' Church *half-time***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.**None at this time.***NEXT fyi:**

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the January issue is earlier than usual because of the holidays: **Wednesday, Dec. 16 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.