



Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

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](#)

**Clergy and leadership
invited to engage in
mission strategy review**

The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council has e-mailed to clergy and lay leaders an invitation to help refresh the shared [diocesan mission strategy](#). Included was a link to [this document](#) containing a few guiding questions for congregational annual meeting “table conversations” as well as a framework for a more robust engagement ideal for vestry retreats or other leadership gatherings. Photos of notes, chat room logs or similar records are all that’s needed to give feedback. E-mail those by *Friday, March 19* to missionstrategy@diomass.org.

Input is helpful and vital! Join with other congregations in discerning how God’s Spirit has moved among the diocesan community this past year, and where the Spirit may be leading in the days ahead. Additional ways to engage in this process will be provided in upcoming days. Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at missionstrategy@diomass.org.

**Community MLK Day
observances reimaged
online**

The annual Boston Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, founded 51 years ago by St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church and Union United Methodist Church, is the nation’s longest-running celebration of its kind. This year, in partnership with Northeastern University, the event has been reimaged as a virtual gathering to include both a multifaceted celebration and interactive teach-ins. It takes place *Monday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* For information and updates visit www.bostonmlkbreakfast.org.

Additionally, the diocesan Hispanic Ministries Committee will be hosting a joint Spanish-language service for Martin Luther King Day. All are invited to join the livestream on *Sunday, Jan. 17 at noon* at www.facebook.com/lukelucaschelsea. Would you like to offer a reading, poem, words or otherwise participate? Contact the Rev. Edwin Johnson at padreedwinj@gmail.com.

**“Arise, Shine” sermon
series aims to help teens
see Christ’s light**

The season after Epiphany focuses on how Christ is made manifest in the world and in our lives. The Adolescent Mental Health Network in the diocese is offering “Arise, Shine,” a five-week sermon series beginning Jan. 17 that seeks to help teenagers see Christ in themselves and the world at a time when overlapping pandemics make that more challenging. Links to sermon videos will be available weekly via www.diomassyouth.org/arise-shine-preaching-series. Congregations can use the pre-recorded sermons as part of their online worship offerings; the sermons are also available for other groups to use at other times and in other settings, including retreats, faith formation classes, youth groups and campus ministries. Find more information and the roster of preachers [here](#).

NOTES:

- All are invited to participate in the **annual retreat of the diocese's Creation Care Justice Network**: *Saturday, Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* via Zoom. The [climate emergency resolution](#) was adopted resoundingly at Diocesan Convention; the retreat's "World Café" conversations will focus on the question: How is God calling us to respond to the climate emergency? The retreat will offer interactive small groups, art and embodied spiritual practice. Register [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Rev. Lise Hildebrandt at lisehild@gmail.com.

The Creation Care Justice Network currently meets on the first Wednesday of the month at noon by Zoom and is open to anyone. Contact Dawn Tesorero (rangerdawn@gmail.com) to get connected.

- Register online, [here](#), by Monday, Feb. 1 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).

- The Clergy Continuing Education Committee announces that the annual diocesan **Clergy Conference will be abbreviated and virtual this year**, taking place on *Wednesday, Feb. 3, 3-6 p.m.* The program will feature a presentation by Dr. Melissa Perrin, a licensed clinical psychologist in the Diocese of Chicago, offering ways to manage stress, trauma and wellness during the pandemic. There will also be time with the bishops. Details and registration are pending and will be made available as soon as possible, with thanks for everyone's patience and understanding as the committee continues to navigate large-event planning amidst challenging and changing circumstances.

The previously scheduled speaker for this year's conference, Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, William Meade Chair in Systematic Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary, will join diocesan clergy for next year's conference, in person, it is hoped, at Babson Executive Conference Center in Wellesley, *April 25-27, 2022*. Clergy are asked to please save those dates.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

● **Clergy Professional Development Days** in 2021 will be offered online via Zoom for all diocesan clergy, in two parts (each part offered four times). All diocesan clergy are encouraged to register for a Part I session, being offered in conjunction with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts; attendance for both Part I and Part II (the Safe Church review) is required for any clergy due for a Safe Church refresher in 2021.

Part I will focus on the topic “Antagonistic People: Dealing with Bullies in the Church” and will feature as guest speakers Patricia Gianotti, PsyD, and Christyn Sieve, PsyD. Part I sessions are scheduled on the following dates:

- *Tuesday, Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Saturday, April 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Tuesday, June 15, 12:30-3 p.m.*
- *Friday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Part II comprises the Safe Church review for Diocese of Massachusetts clergy due for a refresher in 2021, and take place on:

- *Tuesday, March 2, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Saturday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Wednesday, June 23, 12:30-3 p.m.*
- *Friday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Find more details and registration links [here](#).

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. January’s session, on *Tuesday, Jan. 12, 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 the annual 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.

February’s topic will be “**Making Congregational Leadership Work: Roles and Relationships.**” This seminar, led by longtime parish leader and consultant Marjorie Temple, will cover the responsibilities of officers and vestry members, and how they can learn to work together. This session will be held twice, on *Tuesday, Feb. 16* ([register online here](#)) and *Saturday, Feb. 20* ([register online here](#)), each at 9 a.m. Sessions will be recorded for later access.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator (chris@centrestent.com).

- As congregations begin planning for annual meetings, the [Standing Committee](#) would like to highlight the **process for bylaw and constitution revision**. A brief outline of the recommended revision process is available [here](#). Model bylaws for parishes and missions are available [here](#).

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

- **Special 2020 Parochial Report form:** The filing period for the 2020 Parochial Report opened on Jan. 2. Parochial Reports are due to dioceses by *March 1*, and to the General Convention Office by *May 1*. To assist with filing preparation, downloadable forms and instructions, along with a video tutorial, are available on the Episcopal Church website at www.episcopalchurch.org/research/forms-and-instructions.

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.

Questions about the Parochial Report can be e-mailed to pr@episcopalchurch.org.

- The diocesan Lifespan Ministry with Older Adults will present **“Spirituality in Aging,” a discussion series** for those in or approaching the second half of life. This interactive three-part program will be offered free of charge via Zoom on *Saturday mornings, Feb. 6, 13 and 20, from 9:30-10:30 a.m.* Online registration is open through Feb. 4 [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Phil Flaherty (philflaherty@outlook.com).

- **“Lent and the Longing for God” Retreat:** What do you long for most? What is most precious to you? What do you want more than anything else? This morning online retreat on *Saturday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, will invite participants to explore their own desires, as well as the desires of the One “to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid.” The retreat time will include presentations and guided meditation, with options for solitary reflection or for small group conversation.

This retreat is co-sponsored by the Episcopal dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts, and is open to the people of both. Registration information will be posted [here](#) soon.

● **B-SAFE will B-BACK:** St. Stephen's Youth Programs at St. Stephen's Church in Boston warmly invites **B-SAFE summer program partners—new and returning**—to gather on *Sunday, March 7, 1-2:30 p.m.* This gathering will be either at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill or virtual via Zoom (pending the path of COVID-19; decision will be made by Feb. 1). The gathering will celebrate the successes of last summer and plan for B-SAFE 2021—the program's 22nd summer. Together with more than 50 partner churches, B-SAFE creates a loving and learning-filled community each summer for hundreds of youth and teens who live in the Boston neighborhoods of the South End, Lower Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan.
FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: The Rev. Liz Steinhauser, SSYP Director of Community Engagement (liz@ssypboston.org or 617-851-6680).

● **No-cost online suicide prevention training:** The Diocese of Massachusetts has purchased a number of licenses for LivingWorks Start, a 90-minute interactive online suicide prevention skills training, to help clergy and frontline lay leaders respond well when they become aware of a person who may be contemplating suicide. Licenses have already been made available to clergy and key lay leaders who minister among groups disproportionately affected by the increased incidence of suicide ideation, depression and anxiety disorders, including youth, young adults, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, essential workers and veterans. Remaining available licenses are now being assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once a license is assigned, the recipient has 60 days to complete the 90-minute training, and will receive e-mail reminders until they have done so. A brief video about the training is available at www.livingworks.net/start.

FOR INFORMATION/TO TAKE THE TRAINING: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

● The Diocese of Massachusetts now has a **ChurchNext diocesan formation school**, enabling participation in classes offered by ChurchNext at no cost. Currently there are more than 400 classes available, with more added every month. More than half of the courses are specifically designed to be used in group settings (and can work easily on Zoom), and discussion questions are provided. Congregations can organize classes into particular tracks, depending on their needs. Visit <https://diomass.pathwright.com> to learn more, and, if interested in registering for a class, contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

Additionally, the Diocese of Massachusetts has purchased a "season pass" which allows several people to take one or more of the **2021 Vibrant Faith MasterClasses** at no cost. A Vibrant Faith

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MasterClass is a focused look at one aspect of lifelong faith formation, presented by an expert teacher. Vibrant Faith's goal is to enhance knowledge, skills and confidence for leading faith formation that transforms people and communities.

Each Vibrant Faith MasterClass includes two 90-minute sessions with live presentations followed by discussion and ideas to guide local application. Fourteen classes are being offered between January and June. Please visit the [Vibrant Faith website](#) to see the classes and, if interested in registering for a class, contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

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

- **Seeking input on youth worker online gatherings:** Since April, the Diocese of Massachusetts has hosted regular networking gatherings on Zoom for youth workers and youth ministers. Gatherings were twice a month in the beginning, and have since moved to a monthly schedule. As a new year begins, feedback on these sessions is invited—even if you have not participated. A brief online survey, [here](#), should not take more than 10 minutes to complete, and responses will be so helpful as staff continue to strive to serve and support youth workers and ministers.

The **ongoing online youth worker gatherings** continue on the *third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m.* 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 *Jan. 7 and 14 and Feb. 4.* 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](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Dec. 3, 2020, meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Welcomed new Diocesan Council members: The Rev. George Stevens, Kathy Dollar, Cris Latorre, Chawanzi Muwina, Jania Joseph, Kieron Sharwood, the Rev. Rachel Wildman and Theodore Ts'o.

Heard a treasurer's report about the 2019 audit, year-to-date financial statements and status of assessments.

Voted to approve the 2019 diocesan audit as presented.

Heard a summary of the pandemic impact report results.

Voted to approve an assessment payment schedule for St. Mary's Church in Barnstable.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.

Heard a summary of feedback about Diocesan Convention.

Heard a deanery report from the Concord River Deanery.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15 and 16, times to be announced, via Zoom.*

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

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **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." Each diocese may submit only one application in each of two funding categories, so those intending to apply should be in touch, as soon as possible, with Martha Gardner (as below). 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).

- **"Wicked Good Idea" Microgrants** will be available again this year, 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 encourages everyone to think creatively about how to do that.

A total of \$15,000 is available for grants in 2021. Applications will be available *April 1*, and will be received on a rolling basis for individual grants of \$500 to \$2,000. Find more information [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at missionstrategy@diomass.org.

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

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Stephanie Chase Bradbury has been appointed interim priest at Emmanuel Church in Wakefield and began Advent 1. The Rev. Eric Fiahlo has been called as rector of St. Gabriel's Church in Marion, beginning Feb. 1. The Rev. Tamra Tucker has been called as priest and lead organizer by the Council of The Crossing with which she has been serving as pastor in charge.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

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:**

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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*Continued from page 8***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***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *half-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***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

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 Feb. 3 issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.