



Wednesday, July 7, 2021

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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## **Preliminary Diocesan Convention details announced**

*Nominations and resolutions due by Sept. 10.*

Visit [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021) for information and updates.

This year's annual Diocesan Convention takes place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13*, under the theme "Members One of Another" taken from Romans 12:5 and an invitation to celebrate and explore our interdependence as members of the Body of Christ.

Friday's sessions will be virtual and open to all, with the option of regional in-person gatherings at several local church locations (to be announced). Saturday's business sessions will be virtual only.

The **Friday afternoon and evening programs for the whole diocesan community** will feature a line-up of special guest speakers that includes the Rev. Lydia Kelsey Bucklin, Canon to the Ordinary for Discipleship and Vitality, Diocese of Northern Michigan, giving a plenary presentation; Bishop Douglas J. Fisher of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts preaching at the Convention Eucharist; and Dr. Catherine Meeks, Executive Director of the Abalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, giving a keynote address.

**Registration** will open online in August. Preliminary information was e-mailed to clergy and delegates on June 24, and is also available at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021).

Questions about **delegate certification** and any changes of clergy or delegate contact information should be directed to Chelsea Smith at [csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org) as soon as possible so that important convention information reaches those who need it.

The **submission deadline** for all proposed resolutions, nominations for positions to be filled by election and required reports is *Friday, Sept. 10 by 5 p.m.* Find more information about open positions to be filled by election [here](#) and the nomination form [here](#). The online resolutions submission form will open in July.

The modified **resolutions process** used last year will again provide online opportunities for discussing and refining proposed resolutions prior to the convention, with an open comment period *Sept. 20-27* and two Zoom meetings for discussion of resolutions, on *Tuesday, Sept. 21* and *Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.*

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:

- *Monday, Oct. 18* (Central Region);
- *Tuesday, Oct. 19* (Northern and Western Region); and
- *Thursday, Oct. 28* (Southern Region). A daytime forum will

also be held on *Friday, Oct. 29, 2-3:30 p.m.*

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

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**Confirmation services to be offered in August, September & October**

Registration is open for a series of Saturday Confirmation services at locations around the diocese in August, September and October:

- *Aug. 14 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.* at Trinity Church in Topsfield;
- *Aug. 21 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.* at St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth;
- *Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m.* at Christ Church in Swansea; and
- *Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m.* at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham.

Please note that the Sept. 25 service at the Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington is now filled.

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: *Kevin Vetiac, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston* ([kvetiac@diomass.org](mailto:kvetiac@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).

**Oct. 12 Clergy Day to focus on "The Church Cracked Open"**

The annual Clergy Day will be held on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 4-8 p.m.* This year's keynote speaker, the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Stewardship of Creation, will speak about her latest book, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community*, and reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic, racial reckoning and the immense transformations taking place within the church. The planning committee currently anticipates opportunities for clergy to participate in-person as well as virtually. More information regarding format and registration will be announced later this summer.

FOR INFORMATION: *Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations and Events* ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

**NOTES:**

● **Online safe church training transitioning to new platform:**

The online abuse prevention training made available by the Church Pension Group and Praesidium is upgrading to a new system. "Safeguarding Online" Praesidium's Armatus Learn to Protect System is becoming Praesidium Academy on July 14. Active users, including parish administrators, should keep an eye out for an e-mail from Praesidium Academy on the launch day inviting them to log in using the e-mail address associated with their account and to update their password in order to access the training. There will be no expiration on the link sent out to administrators and learners.

Please note that as of July 12 at 6 p.m., learners will no longer be able to take courses in Armatus. Armatus administrators will have "view only" access until Dec. 31 if they need to access learner course completions prior to Jan. 1, 2017; learner records that are in an active status and completed a course starting Jan. 1, 2017, or later will be migrated over to the new Praesidium Academy.

Learn more [here](#), where there is a video demo of the new platform, administrator tutorials and an in-depth FAQ/support section. A learner-facing website at <https://praesidium.lpages.co/academy-users/> provides information for parish users. Designated parish administrators of the system may contact [support@praesidiuminc.com](mailto:support@praesidiuminc.com) with questions about the new platform.

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- **Sermon videos available to congregations:** Designated diocesan staff members will be recording video sermons for use by congregations in their online worship offerings for *Sundays through Sept. 5*. These are intended as a gift of support to clergy and congregations. Sermons will be available mid-week prior to each assigned Sunday, for download via [this link](#), where the rota is also posted, or for viewing at [www.youtube.com/edimass](http://www.youtube.com/edimass).  
*FOR INFORMATION: Bridget Wood, Communications Assistant ([bwood@diomass.org](mailto:bwood@diomass.org)) or 617-482-4826, ext. 558).*
  - **Music for the Ministry of the Steps:** Come sing on the steps of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, as part of its Ministry of the Steps this summer: *Thursday, July 8 and Thursday, Aug. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.* Those who come will sing for one another and the busy crowds on Boston Common. Bring prepared music if your choir comes, or sing familiar hymns with new friends from around the diocese. The group will pray together and have lunch provided by the cathedral. Sign up by contacting the cathedral's music director, Louise Munding ([lmunding@diomass.org](mailto:lmunding@diomass.org)).
  - **Seminars on practical aspects of congregational leadership available for replay:** Need to home in on a particular aspect of practical congregational leadership? From September to May, the diocesan Congregational Consultants sponsored and conducted hour-long seminars on eight key topics: Clergy compensation, year-end matters, annual meetings, vestry roles and responsibilities, Parochial Reports I (financial information) and Parochial Reports II (non-financial information), audits, and investments. Recordings of these presentations are available [here](#). The consultants plan to resume the series in the fall.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator ([chris@centrestent.com](mailto:chris@centrestent.com)).*
  - The final sessions in the current series of **Clergy Professional Development Days** will be offered in September. Part I focuses on the topic "Antagonistic People: Dealing with Bullies in the Church" and takes place on *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 and takes place on *Friday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* Clinical psychologist Trudy Good, founder of [Good Havens](#), will give a presentation and facilitate discussion about boundaries. Find more details and registration links [here](#).  
*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org)) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
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## **FORMATION Opportunities:**

- The Diocese of Massachusetts has purchased a **Vibrant Faith season pass for summer/fall MasterClasses**, making a limited number of spaces for each class available at no cost. A Vibrant Faith MasterClass is a focused look at one aspect of lifelong faith formation, presented by an expert teacher, that incorporates both the “why?” and “how?” of the subject. Each class consists of two 90-minute sessions with live, interactive presentations; following the second session, each instructor holds an office hour for additional (and specific) questions and dialogue. Find the listing of classes [here](#). The first three being offered this summer are “Guiding People into their Calling”; “Skills for Coaching Ministry Leaders”; and “Intergenerational Worship for All Ages.”

The diocese also has a **ChurchNext formation school**, enabling participation at no cost in more than 400 available classes offered by ChurchNext. More than half of the courses are designed for 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 [www.church-next.tv/library](http://www.church-next.tv/library) to see the listing of classes.

Contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403) if interested in registering for Vibrant Faith or ChurchNext classes.

- Beginning in September, the Diocese of Massachusetts will once again partner with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts to offer **“Loving the Questions,”** a six-month program for those who want to explore God’s call to all baptized persons, and to grow deeper in discipleship by discovering how particular life experiences, individual gifts and passions connect with God’s mission both in congregational life and in the world.

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

- All **children’s formation colleagues**—paid or volunteer, clergy or lay, full or part-time—are welcome at regular **online gatherings**, scheduled on upcoming *Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: July 8 and 22 and Aug. 5*. To receive the meeting link or to be added to the list to receive notices of meetings, events and resources, contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

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## **Youth and Young Adult Ministries:**

- **Applications are available, [here](#), for the upcoming Diocesan Youth Council.** Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) is open to young people in grades 9-12 looking to build community with other young people, engage in the work of justice and service, ask big questions about their faith and take on positions of leadership and responsibility. Please help recruit young people who might be ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry on the diocesan level. Questions may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith ([hsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hsmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 215),
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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- In June, **draft translations of The Book of Common Prayer** were released in Spanish and French, with Haitian Creole to follow. **Feedback is sought from native speakers by Oct. 15.**

The new translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, directed by the church's General Convention in 2018 through [resolution A070](#), are online for review in Spanish and French, with accompanying survey questionnaires in each language at: <https://www.generalconvention.org/bcp-translation>.

- On *Saturday, July 17, at 2 p.m. Eastern*, Episcopal Church bishops, deputies and alternate deputies will gather online for a **prayer convocation to prepare for the 80th General Convention**, which has been postponed to July 7-14, 2022, in Baltimore. A livestream of the prayer service will be open to all at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/convocation-of-bishops-and-deputies>, and it will be available for on-demand viewing after July 17.

- The [Episcopal Peace Fellowship Peacebuilding Online Project](#) is offering a series of free, one-hour online presentations that begins on *Sunday, Aug. 4 at 4 p.m. Eastern* with the Rev. Rosalind Hughes, a priest in the Diocese of Ohio and author of *Whom Shall I Fear?* Find more information and registration [here](#), and the full schedule [here](#).

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**GRANTS & LOANS:**

- **Mission Strategy “Wicked Good Idea” Microgrants:** The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council is receiving applications for “Wicked Good Idea” microgrants to help congregations, networks or diocesan organizations try out a great idea that’s meant to further our shared [mission strategy](#).

In 2021, a total of \$15,000 is set aside for individual grants from \$500 to \$2,000. There is no application deadline; applications are received and grants awarded on a rolling basis until the funds are gone. Find more information and the application form [here](#).

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**DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its June 17 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Treasurer’s Office about the 2022 assessment formula communications and response, the 2022 budget creation timeline, and goals for the Financial Advisory Committee.

Voted to appoint Jack Wolfe and Judith Reed to the Financial Advisory Committee.

Voted to empower the Financial Advisory Committee to select an investment manager to invest all or some portion of the funds currently being held at Fidelity.

Heard an update from the Convention Office about planning for the 2021 Diocesan Convention, which will be held virtually on Nov. 12-13 with hybrid options for the first day.

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Voted to appoint Michael Dangelo to the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** *Thursday, Aug. 12, 5 p.m., via Zoom.*

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

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**CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

[www.diomass.org/clergy transition](http://www.diomass.org/clergy-transition)

**Central Region**

*Regional Canon Carol Gallagher*  
[cgallagher@diomass.org](mailto:cgallagher@diomass.org)

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. James Hairston, who has been serving as bridge priest at Grace Church in Everett, has been assigned to serve as priest-in-charge there.

The Rev. Jennifer Phillips has retired from St. John’s Church in Westwood after serving as rector for six years.

The Rev. Noble Scheepers has completed his ministry at Trinity Church in Marshfield.

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew’s Church  
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian’s Church  
WESTWOOD, St. John’s 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:**

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

MEDWAY, Christ Church *part-time*

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

*None at this time.*

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**Northern and Western Region**  
Regional Canon Martha Hubbard  
[mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church  
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

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

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

**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.*

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

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

METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church *quarter-time*

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church *three-quarters-time*

**OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:**

LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church: [Curate/Assistant](#)

**Southern Region**  
Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

*None at this time.*

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

ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-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*

[SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity](#) *half-time*

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

*None at this time.*

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

*None at this time.*

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church *quarter-time*

***NEXT fyi:***

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the Aug. 4 issue is **Wednesday, July 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).