



Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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## Convention resolutions, nominations, reports due Sept. 10

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

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.

Sessions on Friday afternoon and evening, with a line-up of special guest speakers, will be virtual and open to all, with the option to participate via in-person gatherings at several host church locations to be announced (and pending COVID metrics). Saturday’s business sessions will be virtual only.

Clergy and delegates should watch for an e-mail later this month with registration and additional information.

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 open positions to be filled by election [here](#) and the nomination form [here](#). The online resolutions submission form is now open [here](#), and resolution-writing guidelines are available [here](#).

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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## Start planning & stay tuned for Season of Creation, Sept. 1-Oct. 4

*Sept. 1-Oct. 4*, designated as Season of Creation, is an opportunity to focus worship, prayer, educational events and actions on God’s extraordinary creation and the climate crisis threatening all life on our planet. The diocesan Creation Care Justice Network will be offering resources for congregations and clergy for the season and its theme, “Hope Beyond the Heat,” to be posted at [www.diomass.org/creation-care](http://www.diomass.org/creation-care) in mid-August. Additionally, there will be a preaching workshop on *Sept. 16* and an online retreat, open to all, on *Oct. 2* (see page 3). All are invited to start planning and stay tuned.

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

The **annual diocesan Clergy Day** will be held on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 4-8 p.m.* Online registration opens on Aug. 17. Keynote speaker the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers will draw from her new book, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community*, and from churchwide efforts toward truth-telling and discipleship, in order to help equip the gathering as a community of leaders and learners whose churches and communities have been “cracked open” by pandemic, racial reckoning, economic suffering and generations-long decline. Discounted copies of Spellers’ book may be purchased [here](#) using the promo code CHURCH20. Read the introduction to *The Church Cracked Open* [here](#).

This year’s Clergy Day includes opportunities for clergy to be together in person as well as to participate virtually. The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will be the main site; proceedings will be broadcast to two additional satellite sites where clergy may gather in person to participate in the event and for fellowship together. The fee to attend an in-person gathering is \$20 per person and includes dinner. Clergy are invited to attend at the location of their choosing.

A livestream of the event will be available for those clergy who are not able to join in person at one of the three locations. There is no fee to attend virtually, and once registered as such, participants will receive information prior to the event about how to access the livestream online.

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

“Cracked Open? Now What?”  
online conversation session  
for the laity: Oct. 12 at noon

The laity of the diocese will have a special opportunity to gather for “Cracked Open? Now What?”—an online conversation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, via Zoom, on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 12-1:15 p.m.*, ahead of her Clergy Day presentation later in the day. As the temptation to get “back to normal” beckons in this season of regathering and reopening, how can communities be helped to embrace disruption, dismantle white supremacy and empire, fall in love with Jesus and embody the dream of God? All in the laity are invited to join this important conversation. Online registration will open soon.

*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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**NOTES:**

- The Rev. Noble Scheepers, co-chair of the diocesan Racial Justice Commission, together with his colleague the Rev. Edwin Arri-son of the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, hopes that a group might come together in Massachusetts to hold a **virtual symposium/time of sharing and worship in October in honor of Archbishop Tutu’s 90th birthday** this year. Anyone who would like to join the planning for such an event is invited to contact Noble Scheepers at [noble23r@gmail.com](mailto:noble23r@gmail.com) or 857-345-2497 for more information.
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- **Sermon videos available to congregations:** Designated diocesan staff members are 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 are 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). Questions may be directed to [news@diomass.org](mailto:news@diomass.org).

- 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.* 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).*

- **“Climate Crisis Preaching: A Conversation with Jim Antal and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas”:** On *Thursday, Sept. 16, 10-11 a.m.*, preachers are invited to join for an informal hour-long Zoom conversation with two religious climate leaders who between them have preached on climate change more than 500 times. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion. Register and find more information [here](#).  
*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- **“Ecological Conversion: Falling in Love with Earth”:** This online retreat led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas on *Saturday, Oct. 2, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, is sponsored by both Massachusetts dioceses and is open to all at no charge. The retreat is an opportunity to consider next steps in eco-conversion and how God wants to meet us through the natural world. Find more information and register online [here](#).  
*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

## **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 ([hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).

- Spread the word to young adults in your congregations and worshiping communities: The Young Adult Advisory Committee, along with Life Together and campus ministries in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and the Young Adult Network of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts are **gathering young adults for an in-person retreat** (maintaining COVID protocols, and making adjustments as necessary) on *Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Friendly Crossways in Harvard. The theme is “Learning to Walk with God in the World” with a focus on discernment. There will be an option to stay overnight on Friday, Oct. 29. Those interested in attending are invited to complete this [online information request form](#); a complete registration form will be available in September. *FOR INFORMATION: Jocelyn Collen ([jocelyn@diomassintern.org](mailto:jocelyn@diomassintern.org)).*

**CHURCHWIDE:**

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites Episcopalians over 18 to **consider applying to be a delegate to the 2021 United Nations climate change conference**—known as the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties, or COP26. Applications are due by *Friday, Aug. 20*, and the presiding bishop’s delegation will attend daily virtual events during COP26, which takes place in Glasgow Oct. 31-Nov. 12. The presiding bishop will announce his nominations for the delegation by early September. Members will meet monthly ahead of COP26 via video conferencing as well as daily during the November event. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).

- 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>.

**GRANTS & LOANS:**

- The application and program information for **2022 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are now available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 15, 2021*, for sabbaticals in 2022; award decisions will be announced by Nov. 15, 2021. Please submit applications to David Ames, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Suffragan, by e-mail at [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org) or by mail to him at the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas ([theakl@mit.edu](mailto:theakl@mit.edu)) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole ([sjrobbinscole@gmail.com](mailto:sjrobbinscole@gmail.com)), Sabbatical Grant Committee.*

- **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:**

**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)

### **CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Zachary Njogu Kinyua began as priest-in-charge at St. Mark’s Church in Dorchester on Aug. 1.

The Rev. Mary Rosendale will begin on Sept. 1 as quarter-time priest-in-charge at St. Paul’s Church in Hopkinton and, in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, as three-quarters-time priest-in-charge at St. Stephen’s Church in Westborough.

The Rev. Noble Scheepers will begin as interim priest at St. John’s Church in Westwood on Aug. 8.

### **Central Region**

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

### **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.*

*None at this 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.*

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

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

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

**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 (updated profile)*

[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 Sept. 1 issue is **Wednesday, Aug. 25 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).