



Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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Diocesan Convention registration opens Oct. 5

*Prepare for Diocesan Convention
at a forum this month.*

The 232nd annual Diocesan Convention will take place *Saturday, Nov. 4* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Convention materials and registration information will be posted online on Oct. 5 at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2017. Printed copies of the materials will be available at the pre-convention forums and at the convention on Nov. 4.

Pre-convention forums this month will offer an important opportunity for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including resolutions and the proposed budget. Forums are scheduled to take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 18* at the Church of the Good Shepherd (74 High Street) in Wareham;
- *Thursday, Oct. 19* at Emmanuel Church (5 Bryant Street) in Wakefield;
- *Tuesday, Oct. 24* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and
- *Wednesday, Oct. 25* at St. Elizabeth's Church (1 Morse Road) in Sudbury.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

"A Future and A Hope": Barbara C. Harris Center Sunday is Dec. 3

This year, as a part of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center's "A Future and A Hope" annual fund campaign, congregations of the diocese are invited to observe Dec. 3 as Barbara C. Harris Center Sunday.

Ways to participate in Barbara C. Harris Center Sunday include taking up a collection to bolster the camp's annual fund (bulletin inserts and donation envelopes are available); including the Barbara C. Harris Center in the Prayers of the People; making an announcement from the pulpit; and inviting a member of the board or staff to be present for a service or forum.

Read an invitation to participate from Bishop Alan M. Gates and find more information [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: John Koch, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center (603-547-3400 or john@bchcenter.org).

Holy Spirit, Mattapan to host "Immigration Summit 102"

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris at "Immigration Summit 102: Is This Jesus' Work?" on *Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit (525 River Street) in Mattapan. This is a follow-up to the "Immigration and the Church 101" gathering convened by the bishops in March at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. It will be

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[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

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an opportunity to come and hear what other churches are already doing in their networks of ministry in order to better support those in need of it, especially those facing changes in the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. There is no cost to attend this event, but advance online registration is requested to assist with planning. Register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa (617-482-4826, ext. 400 or jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

Learn about church's role in education equity at regional fall forum

A fall regional forum, "The Church's Role in Education Equity," co-sponsored by the All Our Children network and St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, is being offered on *Saturday, Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at St. Mary's for those interested in learning about public education advocacy and about how their congregation can serve students and build transformative, lasting relationships with public schools. Guests and speakers will include Bishop Alan M. Gates and Lallie B. Lloyd, All Our Children's director and editor of the recently published book of essays, *All Our Children: The Church's Call to Address Education Inequity*.

More information and online registration is available [here](#).

Ecumenical retreat helps make the "Creation Connection"

"Making the Creation Connection: Christians and Environmental Justice," a day-long retreat led by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, will offer participants a three-part framework toward transforming hearts and minds about Christians' environmental responsibility and inspiring bold and faithful action on climate and environmental issues. With seven Christian judicatories, including the Diocese of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Council of Churches coming together to sponsor the retreat, it is an ecumenical opportunity for Christian denominations to unite and explore their role and responsibility as God's people to care for creation. The intention for this event is both to help Christians connect their faith with environmental justice, and to connect Christians with other Christians who care for the planet.

The retreat takes place on *Saturday, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover. Registration can be found online at www.rollingridge.org. Cost is \$48 per person, including lunch. A 10 percent group discount is available for three or more from one congregation.

FOR INFORMATION: Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center (978-682-8815 or thestaff@rollingridge.org).

NOTES:

- **Episcopal City Mission's 2017 Annual Meeting of the Corporation** takes place on *Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*, at St. Cyprian's Church (1073 Tremont Street) in Roxbury. The annual meeting is intended for all members of the Episcopal City Mission corporation—specifically, Episcopal City Mission parish delegates and all canonically resident clergy working in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Visit www.episcopalcitymission.org and join ECM's e-mailing list for more details.
- **Small churches gathering:** Clergy and lay leaders from any and all small churches—self-defined, but often those with less than full-time clergy leadership—are invited to gather and talk about their joys, gifts and challenges and to explore ways of focusing on mission and ministry rather than merely survival. Sponsored by the Consultants for Tomorrow's Church, Today!, this gathering will be held on *Sunday, Oct. 15, 2-4:30 p.m.*, at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy.
FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or jgarrett@diomass.org).
- **"Anglo-Catholicism: Uncovering Roots":** The Church of the Advent (30 Brimmer Street) in Boston will host this mini-conference, *Wednesday-Thursday, Nov. 15-16*, on the eve of the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. It will delve into this broad tradition in a bid to remember and retrieve the best of the past for a faithful future. Find more information and a registration link [here](#).

CHURCHWIDE:

- In a **"Word to the Church" statement issued Sept. 27** from their meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, the Episcopal Church's bishops urge Episcopalians to look "for the connections among race, violence of every kind, economic disparity and the environment. Then, after reflecting in prayer and engaging with Scripture, partner with people in common commitment to the healing of God's world.
"God calls us to listen to each other with increased attention. It is only with unstopped ears and open eyes that our hearts and lives will be changed. It is through the reconciling love of God in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that we and the earth itself will be healed."
The full statement is available, in English and Spanish, [here](#).
- Episcopal Relief & Development continues to work with dioceses affected by the extraordinary weather events and natural disasters of recent weeks. For congregations wishing to help, ER&D has a general hurricane relief bulletin insert available [here](#). Contributions to ER&D's hurricane relief fund can be made online [here](#). Those interested in volunteering as the recovery gets underway can sign up with ER&D's Ready to Serve database [here](#).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617/482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- Interested to find out what others are doing in youth ministry? The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is co-hosting a “**Local Conversations**” forum to encourage building more relationships among youth workers across the diocese as they continue to imagine new models of ministry for our time. The program takes place on *Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.* (with dinner), at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth.

The gathering is for full-time and part-time youth ministers, paid and volunteer, clergy and lay, seasoned and freshly anointed. Advance online registration is requested, available [here](#), so that there will be enough food.

Contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith (see above left) to co-host a similar gathering at another location.

- Registration is open for the **2017 Middle School Retreat weekend**, *Friday-Sunday, Nov. 17-19*, taking place at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Retreat participants this year will explore how they are formed by their culture and by their faith for action in the world.

Led by the Diocesan Youth Council, the weekend features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, lively music and some much-needed time away from the rush of everyday routines in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God in our lives. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Registration closes when capacity is reached, or on Nov. 13. Register online [here](#).

- **New youth mission trip program in the works:** Building on the success of recent youth mission trips to Las Fronteras, the borderlands of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is now designing a program to offer the experience to a broader range of young people in 2018. The new program, open to current 9th and 10th graders, will include several mandatory organizational meetings ahead of the trip along with meetings after the trip to connect the new understandings gained with activities ongoing around the diocese. The focus of the program will be helping young people put their faith into action. Applications will be available soon, but for more information now, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith (see above left).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Find more information and register online [here](#). Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained to give the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. This training provides the needed licensing to be a Eucharistic Visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

- A **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** is being offered on *Saturday, Oct. 14, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is no fee for the training, but pre-registration is a must. Register online [here](#).

It is expected that all clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts will attend a Safe Church Training once every three years. The diocese is committed to healthy church environments and needs the shared wisdom and experience of everyone to make them so.

A **Safe Church Training** open to all will be held on *Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit (525 River Street) in Mattapan. Register online [here](#).

This training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power, to outline steps toward preventing abuse, to offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs and to equip anyone in a position of parish leadership with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

- The Society of St. John the Evangelist (980 Memorial Drive) in Cambridge will offer a workshop, **“Celebrating the Sacraments of Healing,”** led by Brother Jonathan Maury, SSJE, on *Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.* “The rite of anointing the sick with oil, or the laying on of hands, by which God’s grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind and body” (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 861) is increasingly incorporated into Sunday and weekday liturgies. This practicum is for parish clergy and lay persons ministering under their supervision.

Additionally, those ministering with young adults may wish to share word of SSJE’s upcoming retreat: **“Spiritual, not Religious?” for people in their 20s and 30s**, to be offered *Friday-Sunday, Oct. 20-22* and led by Brother Jim Woodrum, SSJE. He writes, “In these modern times people are more apt to identify as ‘spiritual’ rather than ‘religious.’ But what does that mean for those of us who feel called to follow ‘the Way’ of Jesus?” The retreat will explore this question through teaching, discussion and prayer.

Visit www.ssje.org for workshop registration.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2017 deanery (Sending Serving and House of Mercy) grants** are available [here](#). They are due by *Monday, Oct. 16*.
FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).
- The deadline to apply for **clergy sabbatical grants for 2018** is *Monday, Oct. 16, 2017*. Application information is available [here](#). Notifications of grant awards will be sent out on Nov. 16, 2017.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Michael Hodges (978-475-0529 or mhodges@christchurchandover.org) or The Rev. Kate Ekrem (781-862-6408 or kate@our-redeemer.net).
- Applications are being accepted monthly for **Mission Tithe Matching Grants**, with separate applications available for pilgrimages and for second and third year grants for work with the same mission partner as a previous grant. Concept papers and applications from congregations with previously approved concepts are due on the 15th of each month for review at the end of the same month. Staff assistance with congregational discernment and document preparation is available. All application materials are available [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission Projects (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ACTIONS:**

At its Sept. 9 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Participated in a VISIONS, Inc. training.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia, and members of the Budget Committee on the preparation of the proposed 2018 budget.

Voted to allocate \$167,000 from Together Now campaign funds to restore funding to the Mission Institute in the 2018 budget.

Voted to accept the recommendation of the Assessment Coordinating Committee for \$39,896 in assessment adjustments for the proposed 2018 budget.

Voted to endorse the 2018 budget summary as presented for proposal to the Diocesan Convention.

Voted to approve a proposed assessment payment plan for St. Mary's Church in Rockport.

Heard an update from Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team co-chair Joe Robinson.

Heard a report from the mission hub program director, Jin Min Lee.

Voted to approve the South Coast Mission Hub's 18-month budget (January 2017-June 2018) of \$237,407.

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Heard a Diocesan Convention update which included proposed resolutions, nominees for open positions and amendments to the constitution and canons.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Oct. 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.*

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Resources for Congregations & Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [parish administrator](#) at Grace Church in Medford; [interim director of music](#) at Grace Church in Newton; [director of children's ministries](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham; [parish administrator](#) at St. Mark's Church in Burlington; [liturgy and music assistant](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [event sexton](#) at Emmanuel Church in Boston; [parish administrator](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn; [director of development](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; [children's formation teacher](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown; [music director](#) at St. Elizabeth's Church in Sudbury; [director of youth ministry](#) at St. Mark's Church in Southborough; [Sunday school teacher](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waban; [minister of music](#) at St. Mark's Church in Westford; and [Christian education coordinator](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Methuen.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Communication regarding deployment and parish transitions should be directed to the Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa (617/482-4826, ext. 400 or jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BOSTON, Trinity Church
CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church
TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church
WRENTHAM, Trinity Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

DUXBURY, Church of St. John the Evangelist
MEDFORD, Grace Church
VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

COHASSET, St. Stephen's Church
FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
WALTHAM, Christ Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

FRANKLIN, St. John's Church

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

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

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the Nov. 1 issue is *Wednesday, Oct. 25 at noon*. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
