



Wednesday, April 1, 2020

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
(617) 482-5800 / (617) 482-4826

[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

COVID-19 Response

Visit the regularly updated [COVID-19 Updates](#) page on the diocesan website for the latest directives, guidance and pastoral messages from the bishops, as well as links to a variety of online resources, including: a listing of congregations livestreaming their worship services; liturgical resources; suggestions for setting up onling giving; and mental health and domestic violence resources.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund is open to receive online gifts at www.diomass.org/give-now.

The Diocese of Massachusetts has established a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help meet emerging, urgent needs in congregations and affiliated organizations, and in support of collaborations with ecumenical, multifaith and community partners. The fund will address critical community needs and congregational sustainability during the time of the pandemic.

The fund is now open to receive online gifts at www.diomass.org/give-now. Please publicize this giving opportunity in congregations.

A grant application with more guidelines will be available soon.

Episcopal City Mission is also launching a rapid response grant fund for grassroots organizations and Episcopal faith communities, to support staff and constituents losing income, for rent control direct action organizing, local justice efforts and other emergent needs. Learn more [here](#).

Diocesan clergy invited to gather for prayer on Holy Tuesday via Zoom

All clergy of the diocese are invited to join for an online time of prayer on *Holy Tuesday, April 7 at 11 a.m.* by Zoom (Zoom link e-mailed to clergy). This will be a one-hour gathering, featuring words from both Bishop Gayle E. Harris and Bishop Alan M. Gates. The traditional service for renewal of clergy vows and blessing of oils is postponed to a later date to be determined.

FOR INFORMATION: Kevin Vetiac, Cathedral Administrator (kvetiac@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).

Triduum service videos will be available for viewing and sharing

Videotaped services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day—pre-recorded at the monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, the chapel of the Society of St. Margaret and the Cathedral Church of St. Paul—will be available on the diocesan website for use by congregations which do not have resources to offer streaming worship or as a complement for those who do. Plans call for each service to be posted on the morning of its respective day at www.diomass.org.

Online book groups continue in May and June

The ongoing series of one-hour online book groups continues on *Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m.*, with discussion of [*Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*](#) by Donna Hicks (join via Zoom [here](#)). Susan Ostberg, a member of St. Andrew's Church in Ayer with experience in mediation, will lead the discussion.

An additional title has been added to the series: [*Joining God, Remaking Church and Changing the World*](#) by Alan J. Roxburgh. Regional Canon Martha Hubbard will lead the discussion on *Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m.* (join via Zoom [here](#)).

Everyone is invited to join one or both of these discussion groups, inspired by [diocesan mission strategy](#) themes of reimagining congregations, building relationships and engaging the world.

Upcoming clergy and wardens gatherings rescheduled

The April **Clergy Conference** has been rescheduled to *Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 1-3, 2021*. The rescheduled program will still take place at the Babson Executive Conference Center in Wellesley, with the Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, William Meade Chair in Systematic Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, as guest presenter. Online registration remains open [here](#).

Those who registered for the April conference and are able to attend in February need to do nothing; their registration will transfer. Those who registered for the April conference and are unable to attend in February, or who will attend but need to change their registration type, should e-mail Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org to request refunds or changes.

Regional Wardens Days and Clergy Professional Development Days: Registration remains open, though dates may be rescheduled. Please watch for announcements on the status of these events.

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

This year's "Encounters in the Holy Land" trip still set for Oct. 5-16

Join co-leaders Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria, Rector of St. Peter's Church in Beverly, for "Encounters in the Holy Land," a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, *Oct. 5-16*. The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to cultural and holy sites—in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah—with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, healthcare and peacemaking ministries.

The group will meet with trip leaders two or three times in August and September for preparation and community building. Estimated cost is \$4,400 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by July 30. The registration deadline is June 1.

FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Joint Standing Committee for Nominations for General Convention is **still accepting nominations for:** members of the Court of Review, Disciplinary Board for Bishops, Executive Council, General Board of Examining Chaplains, and Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop; trustees of the Church Pension Fund and General Theological Seminary; secretary of the the House of Deputies; and treasurer of General Convention.

The application and links to position descriptions are available [here](#). The application deadline has been extended to *April 30, 2020*; elections will be held at the 80th General Convention in Baltimore, Md., *June 30–July 9, 2021*.

Upcoming youth ministry events:

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

- The Diocesan Youth Council is hosting a **weekly online Compliance service**, open to all, on *Thursdays at 9 p.m.* Find the Zoom link [here](#).

- Join with youth ministry and children’s formation colleagues from around the diocese—ordained and lay, paid and volunteer, part time and full time—to share ideas, questions and concerns during this period and new way of doing remote-access ministry.

This is an **ongoing weekly series, focusing on youth ministry one week and children’s formation the next**, every *Thursday at 3:30 p.m.* Find the Zoom link [here](#).

- Upcoming youth ministry online gatherings: *April 9 and 23 and May 7* (Direct questions to the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org).
- Upcoming children’s formation online gatherings: *April 2, 16 and 30 and May 14* (Direct questions to Martha Gardner at mgardner@diomass.org).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Scholarship grants for children of clergy:** Children of clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for scholarship grants for undergraduate degree programs for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applications are due to lsimons@diomass.org by *Friday, May 8*. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by *Friday, June 5*. The Statement of Policy and Procedure, which is the basis for making awards, and the Student Personal and Financial Profile, which all applicants are asked to complete, are available online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gates (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482- 4826, ext. 407).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its March 19 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update about the diocesan response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Voted to accept the final Together Now campaign report.

Voted to approve the 2021 assessment formula, unchanged from 2020.

Heard a report about the Mission Initiatives Subcommittees.

Heard a report about the North Shore Deanery.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting via Zoom: *Thursday, April 23, 6 p.m.*

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

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **all searches in the Diocese of Massachusetts are suspended until April 20.** This means that no new profiles will be posted and no further interviews scheduled. This will be reassessed on *April 7* to determine whether this suspension will need to be extended or lifted. Questions may be directed to the regional canons: The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Central Region (cgallagher@diomass.org); The Rev. Canon Martha Hubbard, Northern and Western Region (mhubbard@diomass.org) and The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell, Southern Region (koconnell@diomass.org).

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Katharine Black began as bridge priest at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown at the end of March.

The Rev. Rebecca Gettel completed her ministry as associate rector at Trinity Church in Concord and on March 8 began as rector of St. Paul's Church in Natick.

The Rev. Bill Kondrath completed his time as bridge priest at St. Paul's Church in Natick in late February.

The Rev. Andrew Switter-Bentley has been called as rector of St. Elizabeth's Church in Sudbury, beginning June 14.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the May 6 issue is **Wednesday, April 29 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
