



Wednesday, June 3, 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](#)

**“A Journey By Stages”
offers guidance for
in-person regathering**

Anticipating that the eventual and phased resumption of in-person public worship and church activities will require careful preparation, the bishops of both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses have jointly issued a set of guidelines—“A Journey By Stages”—and they are urging congregational leaders to start discussing now what safe in-person regathering will entail in their local contexts. Find the guidelines in English [here](#) and Spanish [here](#).

Visit the [COVID-19 Updates webpage](#) for links to resources, including updated [liturgy and music resources](#); an [FAQ sheet](#) from the Compensation and Benefits Committee; and [guidelines](#) for congregations seeking Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness (see page 3 for more information on the latter).

**COVID-19 Emergency
Response Fund remains
open to receive gifts**

The Diocese of Massachusetts COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund remains open to receive contributions at www.diomass.org/give-now, and is helping to meet urgent needs and congregational sustainability during this time. Congregations are invited to continue publicizing this giving opportunity. The application for grants from this fund is available online [here](#).

**Diocesan Convention to
be a virtual experience
on Saturday, Nov. 7**

Due to continued uncertainty about the anticipated COVID-19 experience in Massachusetts this coming autumn, the 2020 Diocesan Convention will be offered as a completely virtual, online event on *Saturday, Nov. 7*—a difficult decision born from a loving commitment to the health and safety of the entire diocesan community.

As this is a new experience for most, the planning team has begun its work early and wants everyone to know the following:

- A virtual convention will be able to meet constitutional and canonical requirements.
- The planning team is working with event-planning and electronic voting companies experienced in virtual conventions to help map out a smooth online experience.
- There is a commitment to technological accessibility, including: the provision of devices to attendees (with vote and/or voice) who are currently without a means to access a virtual convention; pre-convention technology training; and software support prior to and during the convention.
- Convention will be free to all attendees this year, enabled by the cost savings of the venue cancellation.

Stay tuned for additional information in the coming weeks, including a technology survey for convention attendees with vote and/or voice.

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

Ordination of deacons to take place June 5 & 6 via Zoom and webcast

The diocesan community's prayers and virtual presence are invited for the upcoming ordination of deacons, taking place in a new way this year, over the course of *Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6*.

The Liturgy of the Word portion of the ordination service will be conducted as an online gathering via Zoom on *Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m.* The examination and laying on of hands for the nine ordinands will take place as separate events at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston throughout the following day, *Saturday, June 6*, with in-person involvement of the primary participants only, to accommodate physical distancing protocols. A live webcast on Saturday will be available so that family members, friends, sponsors and the wider diocesan community can join those proceedings online.

Find the schedule and links at

www.diomass.org/event/ordination-deacons-2020.

Prayers are invited for these ordinands as they prepare (with sponsoring congregation or community in parentheses):

For the Diaconate—Marilee Comerford (Trinity Church, Marshfield); Valerie Cowart (All Saints' Church, Chelmsford); James Thomas (St. John's Church, Sandwich); and Natalie Thomas (St. Christopher's Church, Chatham).

For the Transitional Diaconate—Lawrence Civale (Church of the Advent, Boston); Luke Ditewig, SSJE (Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge); Tammany Hobbs-Miracky (St. Paul's Church, Brookline); Melissa Howell (Trinity Church, Boston); and Lauren Lukason (St. Paul's Church, Brookline).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations (edie@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 514).

Continuing mission strategy efforts support relationships, reimagination & engagement

- **“Wicked Good Idea” Microgrants** continue to be available 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. During this time of physical distancing, congregations may want to begin or expand virtual offerings, for example. While ideas of church have shifted somewhat in the current time, mission work continues, and this grant initiative, new this year, encourages everyone to think creatively about how to do that.

A total of \$20,000 is available for grants in 2020. Applications are received on a rolling basis for individual grants of \$500 to \$2,000. Find more information and the online application [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at missionstrategy@diomass.org.

- A one-hour **online book group** focused on *Joining God, Remaking Church and Changing the World* by Alan J. Roxburgh takes place on *Wednesday, June 10 from 7 to 8 p.m.* Everyone is invited to participate. E-mail Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org to receive the Zoom link. The discussion is part of a recent series inspired by diocesan [mission strategy](#) themes.

NOTES:

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) has now issued much-awaited Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness regulations, as well as regulations on the SBA review of PPP loans. Hemenway & Barnes LLP, the law firm of the diocesan chancellor, Edward M. Notis-McConarty, has prepared guidance for businesses and organizations which have received PPP loans which may be helpful to **congregations seeking PPP loan forgiveness**. The document is available online [here](#) and contains a link to the PPP loan forgiveness application which is to be submitted, to the lender serving the loan, after the eight-week covered period beginning with the PPP loan disbursement date.

- The Diocesan Council's **Assessment Coordinating Committee is currently receiving adjustment requests from congregations** that anticipate undue difficulty in meeting their 2021 diocesan assessment, and congregations finding that they made errors in their 2018 Parochial Report resulting in unrepresentative 2021 assessment calculations.

Such requests should be made by **Friday, June 12** using the application form posted on the diocesan website [here](#). Completed applications and supporting material may be e-mailed to Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration, at csmith@diomass.org. After the filing deadline, congregations that encounter unanticipated hardships which affect their ability to meet their 2021 assessment commitment may contact the Assessment Coordinating Committee by e-mailing csmith@diomass.org as soon as possible, as well as contacting their regional canon for assistance.

- A series of **online regional gatherings for wardens** is underway, organized with the goal of helping them be effective partners in leadership during this time of COVID-19. The gatherings take place on *several dates through June 11*. Find the schedule and registration links [here](#).

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

- An **online gathering following on World Refugee Day** is being organized to take place on *Saturday, June 27 at 2 p.m.* to honor refugees and a diversity of cultures and for sharing and discussion. Bishop Gayle E. Harris will participate in this event, open to all and planned by the Ministry of Immigration Partnership group convened through the diocesan Office of the the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries. Online registration by June 25 is required for this no-cost event. Registration information will be posted [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

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

- **Our World, Our Future:** Outreach ministries across the diocese are stretched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; meanwhile, young people with hunger for justice and community service are looking to do something. “Our World, Our Future” is a newly designed effort to help organize 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 Office of Youth Ministry is developing an online catalog of service opportunities, categorized in four ministry areas: feeding and gifting; companionship; 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](#).

- The **online youth worker gathering** on *Thursday, June 4* will focus on the [“A Journey By Stages”](#) guidelines for phased in-person regathering, and what they mean for youth workers throughout the summer and into the fall. This is a time to share ideas about camp at home, distanced youth group and more, as well as to ask questions, share concerns and hold uncertainties while looking to the next stages of the pandemic.

Please note that this ongoing series, which has been held every other week in alternation with **online children’s formation colleague gatherings**, will be transitioning to a monthly basis, on the third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m. for youth workers. The future schedule for the online meetings for children’s formation colleagues is to be determined.

To suggest topics for future youth ministry sessions, or to volunteer to lead a discussion, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org. Contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@dimass.org with questions or suggestions for children’s formation sessions.

- The **Diocesan Youth Council** is a group of young people in grades 10-12 who demonstrate faithful leadership in their congregations, the diocese and beyond. They represent the youth of the diocese at Diocesan Convention, and work ultimately to make the church a nurturing environment for the spiritual growth of young people in the Christian community by planning and hosting retreats at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center. They seek to accomplish this through extending fellowship and hospitality with their fellow youth.

A process of discernment is underway as to what Diocesan Youth Council will look like in the coming year. While applications, schedule and expectations are still being worked out, congregational leaders are invited to talk with likely candidates about this opportunity, watch [this space](#) for a forthcoming application and direct any questions to the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its May 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

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

Heard a report about the 2019 preliminary financial reports and 2020 first quarter preliminary financial reports.

Voted to create the Global Mission Grant Fund and Global Mission Cash Fund from the remaining Together Now funds allocated for the Global Mission Tithe.

Voted to endorse the plans for a virtual diocesan convention in November 2020.

Heard an update about the new Province 1 coordinator, Emily Keniston.

Heard a report from the Alewife Deanery.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting via Zoom: *Thursday, June 18, 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:

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. John Beach began as bridge priest at St. John's Church in Saugus in April.

The Rev. Donna Foughty has been called as rector of Christ Church in Harwich Port.

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

BOSTON, Christ Church (Old North)

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.

BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *half-time*

MEDWAY, Christ Church *one-third-time*

WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd *full-time*

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.

None at this time.

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:

BROOKLINE, All Saints Parish: Full-time family minister/assistant rector/curate. Contact the Rev. Richard Burden at rector@allsaintsbrookline.org.

Northern and Western Region
Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

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

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd *full-time*

MELROSE, Trinity Church *three-quarters-time redeveloper*

WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany *full-time*

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Contact the regional canon to be considered.

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

LYNN, St. Stephen's Church *full-time*

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

NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church *half-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*

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *half-time*

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

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*

BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church *half-time*

FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*

MARION, St. Gabriel's Church *full-time*

QUINCY, Parish of St. Chrysostom *three-fourths-time*

SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour *two-thirds time*

WHITMAN, All Saints' Church *half-time*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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.

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *half-time*

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the July 1 issue is **Wednesday, June 24 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
