



**Wednesday, July 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](http://www.diomass.org)  
617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

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**“A Journey By Stages”  
moves toward limited  
regathering where local  
conditions allow**

As the phased reopening process progresses in Massachusetts amidst the still-prevalent COVID-19 pandemic, the bishops of the Diocese of Massachusetts issued new guidance on June 15 that strongly encourages congregations to continue to refrain from holding in-person worship for now, but also permits congregations—in places where local conditions allow—to begin preparations for limited in-person regathering after July 1.

A group of “regathering shepherds” has been recruited to work with congregations on their plans for “Stage Two” in-person gatherings, based on the “A Journey By Stages” guidelines issued jointly by both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses in mid-May (available in English [here](#) and Spanish [here](#)).

In order to receive the bishops’ permission for in-person regathering after July 1, congregations, with an assigned regathering shepherd, need to complete an online checklist (available in English [here](#) and Spanish [here](#)), attesting that they have a carefully considered regathering plan in place. To date, 72 congregations have requested a regathering shepherd to work with them on their regathering plans, and 67 of those have been assigned a shepherd.

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**COVID-19 Emergency  
Response Fund expands  
grant criteria**

Contributions gratefully received  
via [www.diomass.org/give-now](http://www.diomass.org/give-now).

The Diocese of Massachusetts COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund remains open to receive contributions at [www.diomass.org/give-now](http://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 criteria for grants from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund have been expanded to include assistance with building technological capacity, and the grant committee continues to welcome applications from congregations and organizations, including ecumenical, interfaith and community partnerships, affiliated with the Diocese of Massachusetts. Grant requests, for up to \$5,000, are considered on the 1st and 15th day of each month. Find more information and the online grant application [here](#).

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

Watch for mid-July e-mailing &  
visit [www.diomass.org/  
diocesan-convention-2020](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020) for  
updates.

Due to continued uncertainty about the anticipated COVID-19 experience in Massachusetts in the fall, the [2020 Diocesan Convention](#) will be offered as a completely virtual, online event on *Saturday, Nov. 7*.

As this will be 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.

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- 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.

A mid-July e-mailing will include additional information.

*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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## **CHURCHWIDE:**

- The Episcopal Church Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation has announced the availability of **“rapid response” grants to address the racial disparities laid bare by the coronavirus pandemic and for groups responding to racist violence and policing reform.**

“The COVID-19 pandemic and George Floyd’s murder have made it painfully clear how far we are from God’s dream for us. We have seen again and again that prophetic action can turn a moment of pain into a moment of progress,” advisory group co-chair the Rev. Edwin Johnson of the Diocese of Massachusetts said in a June 19 media release announcing the grants. “Our goal with these grants is to invest and partner with leaders and communities pursuing progress and healing in their contexts. The nature of the need and the opportunity is such that we want to move quickly and to prayerfully discern next steps together.”

These grants are drawn from funds allocated by General Convention in 2018. Applications are now being received, and will be reviewed and granted regularly leading up to the **Aug. 15 deadline**. Requests may total up to \$10,000, and may cover programmatic and direct service activities. Priority will be placed on work done in long-term partnership within underserved communities. Congregations, dioceses, provinces, schools, seminaries, monastic communities and other Episcopal entities may apply.

Criteria and the application process are online [here](#). Learn more about Episcopal Church work on “Becoming Beloved Community” at [www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community), and see resources for “Responding to Racist Violence and Police Brutality” at [www.episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence).

*FOR INFORMATION: Advisory Group on Beloved Community Co-Chairs—The Rev. Edwin Johnson ([padreedwinj@gmail.com](mailto:padreedwinj@gmail.com)) and The Rev. Meg Wagner ([mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org](mailto:mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org)), or Sarah Alphin, Associate for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care ([salphin@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:salphin@episcopalchurch.org)).*

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**NOTES:**

- For relationship building and mutual support, the diocese's seven **historically black churches continue to hold online gatherings**. The next one is scheduled on *Thursday, July 2 at 4 p.m.* *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).*
  - **“Change Through Public Policy” Online Training:** The Ministry of Immigration Partnership, convened through the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, welcomes everyone to join for an online two-hour training opportunity to learn about advocacy and relationship building with elected officials, and how to use your voice, your keyboard and your pen to push for better laws and policies. Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations staff will lead this training on *Wednesday, July 15, 1-3 p.m.*, via Zoom. The event is free; pre-registration is required to receive an e-mail the day prior to the event with the link to join via Zoom. Register online [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).*
  - **Sermon videos available to congregations in July & August:** The bishops, canons on diocesan staff and cathedral dean will be remotely self-recording video sermons, for use by congregations in online worship offerings on Sundays in July and August. These are intended as a gift of support to the clergy, enabling them to schedule vacation time or lighten their preaching rota. The plan calls for each preacher's sermon to be available by mid-week prior to their assigned Sunday. E-mail [news@diomass.org](mailto:news@diomass.org) for the download link. Additionally, the staff at the [Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center](#), whose summer camp program has been suspended this year because of COVID-19, has produced a **BCH Camp Sunday Service video**, with sermon by Bishop Alan M. Gates, for use by congregations and groups this summer. The BCH Center has distributed the video link to congregations. E-mail Jon Ingalls at [jon@bchcenter.org](mailto:jon@bchcenter.org) with questions about the Camp Sunday video.
  - **Clergy Professional Development Days**, postponed from May, will be offered for all diocesan clergy in two parts, beginning in late July (dates still being finalized). Part I—to be offered three times—will feature guest presenter Donna Hicks, Ph.D., of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and author of *Leading With Dignity* and *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*. All clergy are encouraged to register for Part I; attendance for both Part I and Part II (the Safe Church review) is required for any clergy due for a Safe Church refresher this year. Dates and registration information will be e-mailed to clergy and posted on the diocesan website events calendar. *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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- The Diocese of Massachusetts provides an annual membership for all of its worshipping communities to **The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)**—a helpful resource for congregations of all sizes. The access information for 2020 is: [www.tens.org](http://www.tens.org)

Username: 1PETER

Password: FOUR:10

*FOR INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development ([baustinspooner@diomass.org](mailto:baustinspooner@diomass.org) or 617-482- 4826, ext. 515).*

- The Creation Care Justice Network in this diocese is meeting with the Mission Institute and Episcopal City Mission to discuss collaboration and next steps on environmental racism. This will be the network's focus for **"Creation Justice Season"** beginning *Sept. 1* (to align with the World Council of Churches' Season of Creation observance). The network encourages congregations to use September and October to incorporate themes around environmental racism into worship, education and action, and will be collecting and sharing resources. Anyone who has environmental justice stories, poems, artwork or worship materials to share, or wants to be part of a panel discussion, is invited to e-mail Dawn Tesorero at [rangerdawn@gmail.com](mailto:rangerdawn@gmail.com).

- Trinity Church in Boston invites the diocesan community to join its **virtual Camp Trinity summer learning and fellowship opportunity** for people of all ages, *July 29-Aug. 1*. Under the theme "One Body, Many Members," Camp Trinity will consider shared connections, gifts and responsibilities, through morning groups meeting in age cohorts, noonday community worship with music and reflections from community members and afternoon of-line activities or intergenerational electives on Zoom, ending each day with an all-camp activity. Four counselors from the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center—Michael Fenn, Tina Seng, Charlie Groves and Avery Nasworthy—are working with Trinity to plan the program. There is no cost to participate; sign up online by July 9 [here](#).

- **Life Together is piloting a new, nonresidential version of its fellowship program starting in August**—both as a creative response to COVID-19 constraints and part of work already underway to expand the pool of young adults eligible to participate.

Life Together is a 10-month faith-based fellowship and leadership development project that matches young leaders (ranging in age from 21 to 32) with mission-based nonprofit organizations, schools and churches throughout eastern Massachusetts. In addition to full-time work with a site partner, fellows receive training in shared leadership models, community organizing tools and diverse spiritual practices, equipping them with tools for social justice, with a special focus on racial justice and dismantling white supremacy culture within organizations.

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Health insurance, a monthly transportation pass and a modest living stipend are provided.

The nonresidential fellowship will be an opportunity for people who are interested in a year of service, but unable to live in residential community, to explore what it means to build intentional community based on shared values and commitments to others.

Current site placement opportunities include both faith-based and secular organizations. Nonresidential fellows could be paired with vibrant church communities as well as organizations that work alongside the unhoused community in downtown Boston, serve immigrants and multicultural faith communities, and organize for civic access, engagement and representation.

Those applying should send a resume and cover letter to [apply@diomassintern.org](mailto:apply@diomassintern.org). Applications will be accepted until positions are filled, or until July 15. Visit [www.lifetogethercommunity.org](http://www.lifetogethercommunity.org) for more information.

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

Questions may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith at [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org) or 617/482-4826, ext. 215

- **A new Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) for a new time:** The DYC is being restructured this year, with several teams devoted to designated responsibilities and commitments:
  - One team will lead DYC participation in Diocesan Convention and serve on Diocesan Council and/or deanery assemblies, and will represent the interests of young people to the wider church.
  - Another team will plan and run retreats for young people at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, continuing their DYC's well-established ministry of hospitality.
  - A third team will work to organize young people across the diocese around social justice issues such as racial reconciliation, creation care or gun violence prevention.

There will also be possibilities for other projects.

Although the DYC will still be one body and will meet together several times a year, this new expanded structure provides opportunities for a broader range of involvement, acknowledging that the diocese's young people have a broad range of talents and interests.

Please help recruit young people ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry at the diocesan level: young people deeply engaged in questions of faith and the role of the church in the world today; those looking for more responsibility, more leadership opportunities, more creative outlets for their ideas and energies; those lone teenagers in congregation really interested in church but without peers their age.

The DYC application will be available at [www.diomassyouth.org/diocesan-programs](http://www.diomassyouth.org/diocesan-programs) and accepted on a rolling basis beginning on July 15, with a planned first meeting in mid-October. Questions or suggestions for other leadership roles for young people in the church are welcome.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Diocesan Youth Missioner ([hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).*

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- **Online youthworker and children's formation gatherings**

**continue:** The ongoing online youthworker gatherings will be held on the *third Thursday of every month at 3:30 p.m.* Next gatherings are scheduled for *July 16, Aug. 20 and Sept. 17.* To suggest topics for youth ministry sessions, or to volunteer to demonstrate a game or activity or lead a discussion, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith, Diocesan Youth Missioner, at [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org).

Online gatherings for children's formation colleagues are taking place twice a month at least through August, at *3:30 p.m. on July 9 and 23 and Aug. 6 and 27.* Direct questions and suggestions for the children's formation sessions to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at [mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org).

Visit [www.diomassyouth.org/events](http://www.diomassyouth.org/events) for meeting links.

- **Our World, Our Future:** This online outreach ministry campaign continues to help 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 online catalog includes service opportunities in four ministry areas: feeding and gifting; companioning; 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](#).

## **GRANTS & LOANS:**

- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, the **United Thank Offering (UTO) grants** process is different this year. To respond to COVID-19-related needs quickly, the UTO will be distributing grants in two rounds, the first ending in October 2020 and the second in April 2021. The diocesan screening committee asks to receive notice of intent to apply by *Friday, July 17*, and to receive completed proposals by *Friday, July 31*, both in care of Martha Gardner, as below. Find application materials [here](#).

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

- **"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. 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](mailto:missionstrategy@diomass.org).

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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its June 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

- Heard a report about [diocesan Canon 9, Sec. 4](#) regarding nonpayment of the assessment, and notification that will be sent to those parishes that have not paid assessments for more than two years.
- Heard an update about the budget process and the draft 2021 budget.
- Heard an update about the St. John St. James Church property in Roxbury.
- Heard an update about the diocesan responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed a COVID-19 impact survey to be sent to congregations this fall after the third financial quarter.
- Heard a report from the Young Adult Advisory Committee.
- Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Heard a report from the Neponset River Deanery.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** A summer meeting is being scheduled, date to be announced.

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

## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

- The regional canons have developed a “**welcome packet**” listing information and resources for clergy, now available on the diocesan website [here](#).

### **CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Jennifer Beal completed her time as supply priest at All Saints’ Church in West Newbury and began service as bridge priest at St. Anne’s Church in North Billerica in June.

The Rev. Daniel Bell has been appointed priest-in-charge at St. Mark’s Church in Burlington.

The Rev. Stephanie Chase Bradbury completed her time as interim priest at St. Elizabeth’s Church in Sudbury, and is now serving as bridge priest at Trinity Church in Melrose.

The Rev. Angel David Marrero-Ayala has been appointed priest-in-charge at Christ Church and Iglesia San Juan in Hyde Park effective June 1.

The Rev. Andrew Switter-Bentley began as rector of St. Elizabeth’s Church in Sudbury in mid-June.

The Rev. Joseph Wilkes retired from St. Andrew’s Church in Methuen in early June. The Rev. Bill Bradbury is now serving as bridge priest there.

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*Continued from page 7***Central Region**

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

**CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

BOSTON, Christ Church (Old North)  
 CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)***None at this time.***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church

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

MEDWAY, Christ Church *one-third-time*

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

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.**None at this time.***OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:***None at this time.***Northern and Western Region**

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard  
[mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto: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*

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*Continued from page 8***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](mailto: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.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church *half-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:**

FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit

**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 Aug. 5 issue is **Wednesday, July 29 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).