



**Wednesday, Sept. 2, 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)  
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[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

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## **Diocesan Convention nominations, resolutions due Sept. 10**

Visit [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020) for registration, materials & updates.

Diocesan Convention will take place online on *Saturday, Nov. 7*, and registration is open, [here](#), until Oct. 30.

The deadline for all proposed resolutions, nominations for positions to be filled by election and required reports is *Thursday, Sept. 10 by 5 p.m.*

This year's convention will elect alternate deputies to the next Episcopal Church General Convention, as well as secretary and treasurer of the diocese and members of Provincial Synod, Standing Committee, the Diocesan Disciplinary Board, Cathedral Chapter, the Barbara C. Harris Center Board of Directors and the Trustees of Donations. Find more information about **open positions** [here](#) and the **nomination form** [here](#).

A **modified resolutions process**, reflecting this year's special circumstances, will provide online opportunities for discussing and refining proposed resolutions prior to their presentation in final form for vote at the convention. There will be an **open comment period Sept. 24-29 and two online meetings via Zoom** for voting members to discuss proposed resolutions, on *Monday, Sept. 28 and Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.* Find additional details about this year's resolutions process [here](#).

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:

- *Tuesday, Oct. 6:* Cape and Islands and Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay deaneries;
- *Wednesday, Oct. 7:* Taunton River and South Shore deaneries;
- *Thursday, Oct. 8:* Charles River and Alewife deaneries;
- *Tuesday, Oct. 13:* Neponset River and Boston Harbor deaneries;
- *Wednesday, Oct. 14:* Mystic Valley and North Shore deaneries;
- *Thursday, Oct. 15:* Merrimack Valley and Concord River deaneries
- A daytime forum will also be held on *Friday, Oct. 9, 2-3:30 p.m.*

Zoom links will be sent out soon.

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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## **Watch for Pandemic Impact Survey this month**

Recognizing that many congregations have been affected financially over recent months, the Diocesan Council will be distributing a Pandemic Impact Survey to all congregations in September, to help assess the best course forward in addressing financial concerns. For more information about the impact survey, other financial matters and continued work on shared mission strategy, read the Aug. 6 letter from Council's Executive Committee, available [here](#).

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### **Scheduling of Confirmations postponed to 2021**

The bishops and dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, in consultation with the deanery deans, have made the difficult decision to postpone Confirmations until at least Spring 2021. A short form of “Recognition and Prayers for those Awaiting Confirmation” is available [here](#), providing a pastoral option to acknowledge in the congregation those who have completed a course of preparation. Once the safe and equitable administration of Confirmation becomes possible, multiple opportunities will be scheduled for those who have been waiting. In the event of an urgent individual pastoral circumstance warranting consideration, the clergy should contact one of the bishops. Questions about Confirmation services may be directed to the Office of the Bishop ([lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).

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### **Season of Creation begins Sept. 1**

A “Season of Creation,” *Sept. 1 through Oct. 4*, is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another and all of creation. The Episcopal Church joins this international effort for prayer and action for climate justice and an end to environmental racism and ecological destruction. This year’s theme is “Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope.” Find links to a pastoral reflection by Bishop Gayle E. Harris, events, including a weekly online colleagues gathering for preachers, convened by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, and worship and prayer resources compiled by the Creation Care Justice Network of the diocese, [here](#).

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### **#VoteFaithfully: Get out the vote efforts get underway**

Getting souls to the polls isn’t just about casting our own vote, but about working together so everyone can vote and vote faithfully, according to engagement resources provided by the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations, available [here](#)—including a **Vote Faithfully/Vote Fielmente Toolkit**, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), to help congregations get out the vote in their communities. Find details on voter registration and voting in Massachusetts [here](#).

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, as part of its commitment to help get out the vote and encourage others in the diocese to do so as well, has created **additional materials congregations can use** this fall. An [online folder](#) offers social media posts and sticker templates, as well as “discerning your vote” postcards, which can be used by any congregation in the diocese. Questions may be directed to Dean Amy McCreath ([amccreath@diomass.org](mailto:amccreath@diomass.org)) or Cathedral Chapter member the Rev. Emily Garcia ([families@redeemerchestnuthill.org](mailto:families@redeemerchestnuthill.org)).

As Election Day approaches, the Ministry of Immigration Partnership, convened through the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, will host “**Safeguarding Your Vote**,” a **free, online educational event**, on *Sunday, Sept. 13, 3-5 p.m.* All are welcome; pre-registration is required, online [here](#). For event information, contact the Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

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**NOTES:**

- Virginia Theological Seminary's eFormation Learning Community will offer a free webinar on *Thursday, Sept. 17, 3-4 p.m.*, on "**Livestreaming: Platforms, Tech & Systems.**" Presenters Paul E. Reese and Merrill Whatley and host Sarah Stonesifer Boylan will help participants sort through options for platforms, hardware and various broadcast systems. Find sign-up information [here](#).
- There is still time to register for "**When the Stars Begin to Fall: Preaching the Old Testament at This Time,**" a **six-week Zoom teaching series for preachers**, offered by the Rev. Dr. Reed Carlson and focusing on the first readings and Psalms of the Revised Common Lectionary Year B. The course begins *Friday, Sept. 11*. Find more information and online registration [here](#).
- **Clergy Professional Development Days** are being offered online via Zoom for all diocesan clergy, in two parts. Find upcoming September session dates and registration links [here](#). Part I features 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 diocesan 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.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
- The annual diocesan **Clergy Day** will be an online gathering on *Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.* Registration is open online, [here](#), until Oct. 1. Through a mix of presentations and small group conversations, a morning session—"Building Emotional and Spiritual Resilience in a Time of Intersecting Social and Ecological Challenges," led by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas—will explore a framework for becoming compassionate, prophetic leaders who are willing and able to take up the mantle of moral leadership that this decisive moment in history requires. The afternoon session will include optional discussion groups, time with the bishops and important announcements.  
*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).*
- **Clergy colleague support groups:** The regional canons, assisted by Nick Munn of the Center for Career Development and Ministry, are ready to help interested clergy launch a number of colleague support groups. They thank those who have given input about what sorts of groups and offerings would be most helpful. Any interested clergy can register online [here](#); those who have already indicated interest will also receive the link via e-mail. As the registration form indicates, both general support groups and specific affinity groups will be formed. If there is an affinity group

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that would be of interest but is not listed, contact the Rev. Canon Martha Hubbard ([mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)) to have it added. These groups will begin through Zoom, and may transition to in-person, or a hybrid, once it is safe to do so. The groups will begin once they are populated, and each group will determine how it will be organized and led. More information will be shared at Clergy Day on Oct. 6.

The registration for groups will be ongoing, and open to any diocesan clergy at any time, and a registration link will be included in the clergy information and resource guide.

The regional canons would greatly appreciate being able to be in conversation with a contact person from existing colleague support groups, to learn more about those groups and whether they would be open to having other clergy join. Please [contact a regional canon](#) if you can help in this way.

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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

- Do you know new or returning college students who are or who might be interested in connecting with an Episcopal campus ministry? **Episcopal campus ministers** in the Diocese of Massachusetts would love to welcome students to their schools and help them connect with community. Visit the [Campus Ministries page](#) on the diocesan website to learn more about their individual ministries. Additionally, the [Episcopal Church Young Adult and Campus Ministries webpage](#) has information about lots of campus ministries.

- **“Learning to Walk with God in This World”:** Young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join on *Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*, for an online retreat introducing practices of discernment for attending to God’s will in our lives and life decisions, facilitated by [Dr. Kathy Staudt](#). During this retreat, some tools and methods for discernment, particularly discernment in community, will be explored. After the retreat, participants can continue to explore on their own, and will also have an opportunity to join a small group to continue the process. Online registration for this free-of-charge event is open until Sept. 25, [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Rev. Isaac Martinez, Young Adult Ministry Advisory Committee Co-Chair ([imartinez@stpaulsbrookline.org](mailto:imartinez@stpaulsbrookline.org)) or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

As a part of this program, several discernment group peer facilitators will be contracted. For more on this opportunity, see the call for applications, [here](#), or contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org) as soon as possible.

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- **Applications for the new Diocesan Youth Council (DYC):**

The DYC is being restructured this year, with several teams devoted to designated responsibilities and commitments, outlined [here](#). Please help recruit young people ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry at the diocesan level. The DYC application is available [here](#) and accepted on a rolling basis, with a planned first meeting (likely online) in mid-October.

**DYC seats on Diocesan Council open:** Two members of the Diocesan Youth Council sit as full voting members of Diocesan Council. Both of those positions are currently open. Young people interested in being involved in governance at the diocesan level are encouraged to apply to the DYC's Church Governance Team. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Diocesan Youth Missioner ([hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).*

- **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. through September*. The group will discuss at the Sept. 17 meeting whether to move back to a twice-a-month schedule. To suggest topics for youth ministry sessions, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org).

Online gatherings for children's formation colleagues are taking place every two weeks until Nov. 5. Next gatherings are scheduled for *Sept. 10 and 24 and Oct. 8*. 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](#).

- **Last call to register for Dismantling Racism: Youth Curriculum Training:** Registration is still open for this online training, free to youth workers in the Diocese of Massachusetts, in September. Space is limited, and there is a required preliminary session on *Sept. 9* for those who have not completed an introductory anti-racism course. Find information on the curriculum [here](#).

Two courses will be offered, each comprising two sessions: *Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 15 and 16 from 1 to 4 p.m.*, and *Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 22 and 23 from 6 to 9 p.m.* Congregational teams of at least two people are encouraged. Find more information about the training on the registration form, [here](#).



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**GRANTS & LOANS:**

- Thanks to all who have supported the Diocese of Massachusetts **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**, 76 congregations and Episcopal communities received a total of \$274,398.90 through nine rounds of funding that began April 15.

Grants included a donation of \$6,500 made to the Massachusetts Council of Churches One Church fund. Congregations from all 12 deaneries received grants as follows:

- Alewife Deanery: Nine congregations, \$38,500
- Boston Harbor Deanery: Nine congregations, \$32,200
- Cape and Islands Deanery: Six congregations, \$15,200
- Charles River Deanery: Two congregations, \$3,000
- Concord River Deanery: Six congregations, \$21,500
- Merrimack Valley Deanery: Seven congregations, \$23,200
- Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay Deanery: Six congregations, \$26,000
- Mystic Valley Deanery: Six congregations, \$30,300
- Neponset River Deanery: Five congregations, \$15,611.51
- North Shore Deanery: Five congregations, \$16,800
- South Shore Deanery: Eight congregations, \$23,567.39
- Taunton River Deanery: Seven congregations \$28,500

Contributions to the fund came from three avenues: \$100,000 was reallocated from the Congregational Development Grants program and \$57,000 was reallocated from Targeted Congregational Development Grants, both in the 2020 diocesan operating budget, and approximately \$124,000 was raised by appeals through the diocesan Office of Development and diocesan news channels. These sources totaled \$281,000.

- **“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 July 30 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Reviewed the draft 2021 budget.

Approved Terry Armstrong as a member of the Diocesan Loan Committee.

Voted to move a special rule of order for resolutions at the 2020 Diocesan Convention.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** *Saturday, Sept. 12* via Zoom. Times 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:**
**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Kate Bast has been called as rector of Trinity Church in Melrose.

The Rev. Valerie Cowart has been assigned as deacon to St. John's Church in Lowell.

The Rev. Andrew Goldhor has been called as priest in charge at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown.

The Rev. Gregory Johnston has been called as rector of St. John's Church in Charlestown.

MIT has named the Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas as interim chaplain to the institute; she will also continue in her Episcopal chaplain role there.

The Rev. Tammy Hobbs Miracky joined All Saints Parish in Brookline as family minister in July.

The Rev. Marilee Comerford has been assigned as deacon to St. Stephen's Church in Cohasset.

The Rev. James Thomas has been assigned as deacon to Christ Church in Plymouth.

The Rev. Natalie Thomas has been assigned as deacon to St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth.

**Central Region**

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

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

*None at this time.*

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

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

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

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

*None at this time.*

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**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:**

Contact the regional canon to be considered.  
 MEDWAY, Christ Church *one-third-time*  
 NEWTON HIGHLANDS, St. Paul's Parish

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:**

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

*None at this time.*

**OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:**

WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd: [Assistant Rector](#)

**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:**

WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:**

Contact the regional canon to be considered.  
 HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church *quarter-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.*

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

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*

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

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

QUINCY, Parish of St. Chrysostom

**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.*

*None at this time.*

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**NEXT *fyi*:**

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the Oct. 7 issue is **Wednesday, Sept. 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

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