



Wednesday, April 7, 2021

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](#)

MA bishops declare climate emergency

May webinars scheduled for next steps in prayer, learning, action & advocacy

“Earth Sunday” sermon for use in congregations and more resources available

Deacons to preach on “Diaconate Sunday” June 13

The bishops of the two Episcopal dioceses in Massachusetts have jointly issued a “Declaration of Climate Emergency,” in response to a Diocese of Massachusetts convention resolution calling for such.

“We believe that God is calling us all to embrace brave and difficult change. Everything we do as faithful individuals and as a church must reckon with the unprecedented emergency in which humanity now finds itself,” the bishops say in the declaration. “We strongly urge congregations across Massachusetts to pray, learn, act and advocate as we build a bold and faith-filled response to the greatest moral challenge of our time.” Find the bishops’ declaration and suggested resources and action steps [here](#).

As additional next steps, webinars on *four successive Wednesdays in May, each at 7 p.m.*, will focus on the individual planks of the declaration: Pray (*May 5*), Learn (*May 12*), Act (*May 19*) and Advocate (*May 26*). These interactive webinars, hosted by the Creation Care Justice Network, will include presentations, discussion and suggested actions. Register online [here](#).

Additional resources for Earth Day, Faith Climate Action Week and Rogation Days, as well as a recorded video sermon for *Sunday, April 18* by creation care advisor Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, are all available [here](#) (to download sermon file for use in local streaming platforms, click [here](#)).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, Creation Care Justice Network (lise.hild@posteo.net) or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

On *Sunday, June 13*, the Diocese of Massachusetts will celebrate “Diaconate Sunday.” Congregations are invited to request a deacon to preach on June 13, when the Church celebrates St. Efreem the Syrian, a deacon venerated in both Eastern and Western traditions.

The diaconate is a full and equal ordained order, called to serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ and “to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world” (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 543). Diaconate Sunday is an opportunity to introduce more congregations to the life and work of deacons.

To request a deacon for June 13, contact David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris, at dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445. Because there are more congregations than deacons, congregations are encouraged to make their requests as soon as possible before May 1 if they would like a deacon to be present with them on June 13.

Retreat: “Healing from Internalized Oppression” coming up April 23-24

The Episcopal Church Office of Black Ministries is offering an online retreat, “Healing from Internalized Oppression,” open to all people of color, clergy and lay, in the Diocese of Massachusetts. It will take place *Friday, April 23, 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.* The retreat is being offered in collaboration with the seven historically Black churches in the diocese, the diocesan Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries and the Racial Justice Commission.

This virtual training is a healing experience curated for and by Black and Indigenous People of Color to explore, engage and heal from racial traumas perpetuated by and within the community. Participants will learn about the need to overcome shame and speak bravely and boldly about harm and healing in the pursuit of unity in Christ. Register online [here](#). An event flier to help share word of the retreat is posted [here](#).

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

Episcopal Chinese Congregation hosts “Breaking Silence” gathering

The Episcopal Chinese Congregation at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston invites all to join in a virtual “holy gathering” in response to the rise of hatred and violence against communities of Asian descent. The gathering will take place on *Sunday, April 11 at 3 p.m.* Register [here](#) to receive the link to attend.

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

CHURCHWIDE:

- Episcopal Bishops of African Descent issued an **open letter in Holy Week speaking out against racism and anti-Asian violence**. Find the full text of the letter [here](#). Diocese of Massachusetts Bishop Suffragan Gayle E. Harris convenes the group, with co-convenor Bishop Eugene T. Sutton of the Diocese of Maryland. Bishop Carol J. Gallagher, Regional Canon for the Diocese of Massachusetts’ Central Region, is a colleague bishop in the group; her “Litany in the Wake of Atlanta in March and Race in America” is online [here](#).

Episcopal Bishops of African Descent is a caucus within the House of Bishops attentive to issues of race and justice and the voice of people of color in the church, and has grown to become a multiracial group comprising members who are Black, Native Indigenous and of Asian descent.

- Deadlines are approaching for Episcopal Church **Beloved Community grants to catalyze the church’s work of racial healing, reconciliation and justice** (deadline is *April 12*; find more information [here](#)) and **Creation Care and Environmental Racism grants** (deadline is *April 16*; find more information [here](#)).

- Registration is now open for the next session of the **Virtual Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency Course**, a five-day intensive course designed for diocesan staff, clergy, lay leaders and seminarians to gain practical knowledge and cultural competency for Latino/Hispanic ministry.

The *Aug. 9-13* session will include 20 hours of online classroom presentations, worship services and group dialogue, with breaks and lunchtime factored in, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day. The Episcopal Church's Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries offers the course, taught by seminary faculty, clergy and lay leaders with extensive experience in Latino and intercultural ministry. Find more information and registration [here](#).

NOTES:

- Clergy, wardens and treasurers are invited to join monthly online for the newly established **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders**, an opportunity to share information on current finance-related topics. This monthly forum will also provide an opportunity for participants to suggest topics that would be useful to be covered. (These forums do not supplant the ongoing series of monthly Zoom sessions run by the Congregational Consultants [see below] which are focused on a variety of practical aspects of congregational leadership and not solely on financial matters.)

The Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders gathers on the **fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.:** *April 27, May 25 and June 22.* Click [here](#) to register for the meeting link. *FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO (challenbeck@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).*

- **Congregational Consultants host series of Zoom calls on the practical aspects of congregational leadership:** These will include topics of interest to vestries and particularly to wardens and treasurers. The upcoming "Congregational Audits, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Audit" will cover how to plan and execute an audit, and available resources. The session will be led by Betsy Blagdon and Gail Murphy, former parish treasurers and current congregational consultants and auditors. This one-hour Zoom seminar will be held twice, on *Wednesday, April 28* ([register here](#)) and *Saturday, May 1* ([register here](#)) both at 9 a.m. *FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator (chris@centrestent.com).*

- **Clergy Professional Development Days** in 2021 are being offered online via Zoom for all diocesan clergy, in two parts. All diocesan clergy are encouraged to register for a Part I session, being offered in conjunction with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts; attendance for both Part I and Part II (the Safe Church review) is required for any clergy due for a Safe Church refresher in 2021.

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Part I will focus on the topic “Antagonistic People: Dealing with Bullies in the Church” and will feature as guest speakers Patricia Gianotti, PsyD, and Christyn Sieve, PsyD. Upcoming Part I sessions are scheduled on the following dates:

- *Saturday, April 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Tuesday, June 15, 12:30-3 p.m.*
- *Friday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Part II comprises the Safe Church review for Diocese of Massachusetts clergy due for a refresher, with upcoming sessions on:

- *Saturday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Wednesday, June 23, 12:30-3 p.m.*
- *Friday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Clinical psychologist Trudy Good, founder of [Good Havens](#), will give a presentation and facilitate discussion about boundaries. Find more details and registration links [here](#).

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

- Youth, young adults, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, essential workers and veterans are among those disproportionately affected by the increased incidence of suicide ideation, depression and anxiety disorders, and there has been a dramatic increase in mental health concerns during the pandemic. To support clergy and key lay leaders who minister among these groups, the diocese has purchased a number of licenses for [LivingWorks Start training](#), a 90-minute interactive online training **to help clergy and frontline lay leaders respond** well when they become aware of a person who may be in need of support.

Those who minister among these groups and would benefit from this training should notify Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421). The licenses will be available on a first-come, first-enrolled basis.

- After a year like no other, and with many in the clergy working long hours to care for their people, **“Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction”** is being offered by Cricket Cooper, who previously served in the Diocese of Massachusetts at St. Andrew’s Church in Wellesley and the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill. Cooper is offering this opportunity to clergy of all faiths. Her website is <https://mapletreemindfulness.com>, and more information can be found [here](#). The [next information session](#) is on *Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m.* For those who are interested, [clergy continuing education funds](#) are available through the diocese to pay for this course. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Central Region (cgallagher@diomass.org); The Rev. Canon Martha Hubbard, Northern and Western Region (mhubbard@diomass.org); The Rev. Canon Kelly O’Connell, Southern Region (koconnell@diomass.org).*

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

- **Life Together accepting applications for 2021-2022 fellows:**

Do you know anyone ages 21-32 with a commitment to social justice and spiritual formation who might be interested in living in an intentional community and serving in the Boston area? Life Together is now accepting applications for its new cohort, beginning in August 2021.

Life Together strives to create a supportive space for the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders to grow and thrive. The 10-month fellowship matches young adults with mission-based nonprofit organizations, schools and churches in the Greater Boston area. Fellows live in intentional communities, receive training in shared leadership and community organizing, participate in facilitated racial justice conversations and take part in diverse spiritual practices. Life Together is a queer and trans-affirming community committed to dismantling white supremacy and oppression.

Interested applicants can apply to Life Together or one of its sibling Episcopal Service Corps programs across the country [here](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the August 2021 cohort has been selected. Learn more about Life Together [here](#).

- **Seeking to build a network of young adults in the Merrimack Valley and on Cape Cod:** As a part of its charge to “foster connections among young adults...in parishes and other settings,” the diocesan Young Adult Advisory Committee is beginning inquiries into the viability of developing a regional network of young adults from multiple parishes (and no parish) in two areas of the diocese: in and around Lowell and the Merrimack Valley, and on Cape Cod. Still very much in the exploratory phase, these efforts are instigated in part by several individuals willing to help advisory committee members recruit others to dream up some possibilities—and help make them happen.

Anyone interested in joining a team to work on either of these explorations (or interested in helping the committee in a similar effort in another part of the diocese) may contact Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministries the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.

- **Online youth worker gatherings:** The ongoing online gatherings for youth workers in the diocese are held on the **first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m.** The next meeting is *Thursday, May 6*. To suggest topics, or to volunteer to demonstrate a game or activity or lead a discussion, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org. Visit www.diomassyouth.org/events for meeting links.

On the *third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.*, the Episcopal Church’s Youth Ministry Network holds a meeting for anyone engaged with any level of youth ministry in the church. The online room is open for 90 minutes with program time or featured guests in the first 45 minutes of the meeting and hang-out time to follow. Register for those meetings [here](#).

FORMATION Opportunities:

- The Diocese of Massachusetts now has a **ChurchNext diocesan formation school**, enabling participation in more than 400 available classes offered by ChurchNext at no cost. More than half of the courses are designed for group settings (and can work easily on Zoom), and discussion questions are provided. Congregations can organize classes into particular tracks, depending on their needs. Recent classes added include “Citizenship as a Spiritual Calling” and “Contemplative Knitting.” Visit www.churchnext.tv/library to learn more.

The diocese also has purchased a “season pass” which allows several people to take one or more **2021 Vibrant Faith Master-Classes** at no cost. These are a focused look at one aspect of life-long faith formation, presented by an expert teacher. The goal is to enhance knowledge, skills and confidence for leading faith formation that transforms people and communities. Upcoming classes include “Faith Formation with Today’s Families” and “Developing Pathways to Faith Growth and Discipleship.” Learn more [here](#). FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- All **children’s formation colleagues**—paid or volunteer, clergy or lay, full or part-time—are welcome at regular **online gatherings**, scheduled on upcoming *Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: April 8 and 22 and May 13*. To receive the meeting link or to be added to the list to receive notices of meetings, events and resources, contact Martha Gardner, Missioner of Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Mission Strategy “Wicked Good Idea” Microgrants are back:** The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council is once more receiving applications for “Wicked Good Idea” microgrants to help congregations, networks or diocesan organizations try out a great idea that’s meant to further our shared [mission strategy](#).

Want to start a new project for your congregation focused on creation care? Would you like to build an outdoor labyrinth for prayer? Maybe you’ve been thinking of a way to engage children outdoors during the pandemic, or want to move forward on the work of racial reconciliation. In 2021, a total of \$15,000 is set aside for individual grants from \$500 to \$2,000. There is no application deadline; applications are received and grants awarded on a rolling basis until the funds are gone.

Please note: Unlike during 2020, this year’s grants will not fund technology for livestreaming services. Applicant congregations need to be in compliance with diocesan guidelines to receive a grant. Find more information and the online application form [here](#).

- **Clergy children scholarship fund:** 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 2021-2022 academic year. Applications are due to dames@diomass.org by *Monday, May 10*. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by June 4. 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: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Actions from the March Diocesan Council meeting will be published in the May issue of fyi.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: Thursday, April 15 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

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

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

www.diomass.org/clergy-transition

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Phillip Kutta has been appointed priest-in-charge at St. John's Church in Sharon and began on March 1.

The Rev. Michele Matott has been called as rector of All Saints' Church in Whitman and will begin on May 4.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

[CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church](#) full-time

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: Contact the regional canon.

MEDWAY, Christ Church part-time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: Contact the regional canon.

None at this time.

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

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
 WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:***None at this time.***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)**None at this time.***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

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

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:**LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church: [Curate/Assistant](#)

Southern Region
 Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *half-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*
[SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour](#) *two-thirds time*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:*None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***NEXT *fyi*:**

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the May 5 issue is **Wednesday, April 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.