



**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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## **Planning for Nov. 12-13 Diocesan Convention gets underway**

Visit [www.diomass.org/  
diocesan-convention-2021](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021) for  
updates.

The 2021 Diocesan Convention will take place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13*. If COVID-19 metrics allow for an in-person gathering, the convention will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers. Highlights include:

- Friday afternoon and evening programs open to all
  - Friday afternoon workshop series with both plenary and small-group opportunities
  - Convention Eucharist with guest preacher Bishop Douglas J. Fisher of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts
  - Friday evening keynote address, guest speaker TBA
- Saturday business sessions developed primarily for voting members of the convention;
- Structured to enable a pivot to virtual format should COVID-19 preclude in-person gathering.

Friday afternoon and evening programming will offer opportunity for education and spiritual formation around a central theme. Development of the theme and associated programming is underway, and specifics will be announced soon. A determination will be made in late summer as to whether the convention will be held in-person at the DoubleTree Hotel or virtually on Zoom, dependent on COVID-19 metrics at that time. However, the above programmatic highlights will be offered whether convention is in-person or virtual. Everyone is invited to mark their calendars and spread the word. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Rachel Wildman, Secretary of the Diocese ([secretary@diomass.org](mailto:secretary@diomass.org)) or Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration ([csmith@diomass.org](mailto:csmith@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).*

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## **Transitional deacons to be ordained June 5**

The diocesan community's prayers are invited for the new transitional deacons to be ordained on *Saturday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m.* at Emmanuel Church in Boston. Bishop Gayle E. Harris will officiate; gathering and livestream details will be forthcoming.

The ordinands are: Marcia Chanta Bhan (sponsored by Christ Church in Cambridge), Benjamin David Crosby (St. Paul's Church in Malden), Hailey Robison Jacobsen (Trinity Church in Boston), Brett Randall Johnson (Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester), Lauren Banks Killelea (Grace Church in Newton), Rowan Julian Larson (The Crossing, Boston) and Kevin Gordon Neil (St. Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn).

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

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***Deacons to preach on  
“Diaconate Sunday”  
June 13***

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 calendar celebrates St. Efreem the Syrian, a deacon venerated in both Eastern and Western traditions. 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](mailto: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.

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***Confirmation services  
to be offered in August,  
September & October***

Plans are in the works for a series of **Confirmation services at locations around the diocese in August, September and October**. An announcement with dates, times, locations and sign-up information will be sent out to congregational clergy later in May.

August services (*Saturday, Aug. 14* at St. Barnabas’s Church in Falmouth and *Saturday, Aug. 21* at Trinity Church in Topsfield, times to be determined) will prioritize those who are leaving the area at the end of the summer for school or military service. Those interested in receiving advance notice about registration for the August services should contact Cathedral Church of St. Paul administrator Kevin Vetiac ([kvetiac@diomass.org](mailto:kvetiac@diomass.org)) as soon as possible.

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***May webinars offer  
next steps to Climate  
Emergency Declaration***

As next steps to the [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) issued in March by the bishops of the two Episcopal dioceses of Massachusetts, webinars on the *four 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 and the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, will include presentations, discussion and suggested actions. All are welcome, and clergy and congregational leaders are especially encouraged to attend. Register online [here](#); find specifics about each session [here](#).

In addition, visit [www.diomass.org/creation-care](http://www.diomass.org/creation-care) to find suggested liturgical and other resources for incorporating creation and climate justice into worship, including “Reimagining and Honoring the Ancient Practice of Rogation: Modern Reflections for Rogation Days” from the Episcopal Networks Collaborative.

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***Limited immigration  
legal services now  
available***

Diocesan mission strategy makes a commitment to invest in ministry with immigrants and communities of color. Some members of this population are at different stages in their immigration processes, and for many of them, aspects of the related legal processes may be unaffordable. To respond to this pressing situation, the Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, has completed the process for recognition by the U.S. Department of Justice to offer some limited legal services to individuals who meet certain guidelines, according to a suggested fee schedule and with fee waiver available to those

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who qualify. He now can offer, among other services: initial consultation, representation at USCIS interviews, help with address changes, DACA renewal, religious worker petitions, non-immigrant religious visas, status adjustments, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), naturalization applications and citizenship certificates. Inquiries are welcome.

*FOR INFORMATION: 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:**

- Many congregations have feeding programs and food pantries and work in various ways to address hunger in their communities. A new **Food Security Network** has formed around these ministries to exchange resources and best practices and to look at advocacy possibilities. Join with others for the next online gathering on *Wednesday, May 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m.* For information or to register, contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482- 4826, ext. 403).

Immediately following, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., there will be a Feed Kids MA Faith Briefing on the current legislative priority “School Meals for All.” Find more information [here](#), and register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

- Clergy, wardens and treasurers are invited to join the monthly online **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders**, an opportunity to share information on current finance-related topics. The Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders gathers on the *fourth Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., May 25 and June 22*. Click [here](#) to register for the meeting link.

*FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO ([challenbeck@diomass.org](mailto:challenbeck@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).*

- **Congregational Consultants to host sessions on managing investments and endowments:** As part of its ongoing series of Zoom calls on the practical aspects of congregational leadership, the Congregational Consultants are sponsoring a one-hour session on managing investments and endowments. The session will cover tracking, accounting and investing long-term funds, including some of the basics of asset allocation and different investment vehicles. It will be given twice, both *at 9 a.m.: Wednesday, June 2 ([register here](#)) and Saturday, June 5 ([register here](#))*, conducted by Chris Meyer, longtime head of the Congregational Consultants, with, on June 2, Beth Westvold, President of the Trustees of Donations (TOD), which manages the Diocesan Investment Trust, and, on June 2 and 5, Charlie Jordan, TOD Investment Coordinator and Clerk.

*FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator ([chris@centrestent.com](mailto:chris@centrestent.com)).*

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- **“Alive in the Spirit” Morning Retreat:** This online retreat on *Saturday, June 12, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, is being offered for the people of both Episcopal dioceses in Massachusetts, and will explore ways of prayer that make us available to the healing and enlivening power of the Spirit. The time together will be led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, and will include presentations and guided meditation, with options for solitary reflection and small group conversation. Find online registration [here](#).

- **Clergy Professional Development Days** in 2021 are being offered online via Zoom for all diocesan clergy, in two parts.

Part I focuses on the topic “Antagonistic People: Dealing with Bullies in the Church,” with upcoming sessions scheduled on:

- *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:

- *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](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- **Diocesan Sung Compline:** *Each Friday at 8 p.m.* the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston hosts Sung Compline via Zoom. The service features a brief reflection and music from churches being prayed for in the [Diocesan Cycle of Prayer](#). The service also includes remembrance by name of those who have died from COVID-19. To feature music from your church in an upcoming service, contact cathedral music director Louise Munding at [lmunding@diomass.org](mailto:lmunding@diomass.org). To volunteer to offer a 2-3 minute reflection, contact Dean Amy McCreath at [amccreath@diomass.org](mailto:amccreath@diomass.org). Names of those who have died of COVID-19 can be sent to [cathedral@diomass.org](mailto:cathedral@diomass.org).

- **Diocesan Musicians Learning Community:** Each week on Wednesday at 11 a.m. music directors from congregations around the diocese meet to check in with each other and discuss matters both musical and technical as remote worship continues. Those who would like to be added to the distribution list are invited to contact Louise Munding at [lmunding@diomass.org](mailto:lmunding@diomass.org).

- The Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society provides, upon request, **free prayer books and hymnals** to missions, aided parishes and hospital and school chaplaincies unable to afford them.

Read more about founder Margaret Coffin and the society [here](#). Requests for prayer books and hymnals may be addressed to: The Rev. Robert Edson, 4 Home Meadows Lane, Hingham MA 02043 ([edsonrb@aol.com](mailto:edsonrb@aol.com) or 781-749-2488).

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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- **“Evangelism Matters” online:** This year’s churchwide “Evangelism Matters” conference launched April 12 as an audioconference, featuring podcast-style talks on the opportunities and challenges of evangelism today. Registration has been extended to May 20 to receive the link to the podcast feed and an invitation to upcoming Zoom coffee hours featuring Evangelism Matters 2021 presenters. Find details [here](#).

- **Public webinars to explore recently released Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership:** After two years and more than 1,300 surveys, the Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership is now available to the wider church and public. The audit identifies nine patterns of systemic racism—ranging from the historical context of church leadership to current power dynamics—and it will be explored in three public webinars at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 11 (audit findings), June 1 (systemic racism patterns) and June 29 (next steps). Learn more about the webinars and find the full audit report, executive summary and supporting materials [here](#).

- **Pentecost Way of Love Revival Weekend:** The Episcopal Church greets Pentecost with a Way of Love Revival Weekend, beginning on Saturday, May 22 at 6 p.m. with the first in a series of virtual “Concerts for the Human Family.” Filmed at Philadelphia Cathedral, the May concert features a diverse team—including Nashville pianist and composer Kory Caudill and Baltimore-based hip-hop artist Wordsmith—offering original music. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will host further conversation after the concert and then invite the entire audience to share in small group “[Conversations Across Difference](#).” Register for the free concert and conversations [here](#).

The weekend celebration continues with a virtual Pentecost Way of Love Revival Worship Service on Sunday, May 23, at 4 p.m., to be aired on the Episcopal Church’s various web channels, including [Facebook](#) and [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org). Find additional information [here](#).

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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

- Applications will open by May 15 for the **2021-2022 Diocesan Youth Council (DYC)**. The DYC is open to young people in grades 9-12 looking to build community with other young people, engage in the work of justice and service, ask big questions about their faith and take on positions of leadership and responsibility. Help is needed to recruit young people ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry on the diocesan level. Questions may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith at [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org).

- **Seeking young people for focus groups:** In preparation for workshops supporting parents and caregivers of adolescents, the Adolescent Mental Health Network is looking for young people in

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middle and high school to offer their input and feedback. Network members hope to talk with young people with a variety of needs and experiences, including an affinity space for young people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Each focus group will meet once over Zoom, either in the last week of May or the first week of June. Each participant will receive a small honorarium. To connect the group with young people who might be interested in participating, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith ([hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org)) or Eva Dalzell ([edalzell@diomass.org](mailto:edalzell@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*, focused on Confirmation and summer plans. For information, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at [hmsmith@diomass.org](mailto:hmsmith@diomass.org). Visit [www.diomassyouth.org/events](http://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](#).

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## GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Mission Strategy "Wicked Good Idea" Microgrants:** The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council is 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](#).

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. 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](mailto: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](mailto:dames@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).*

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**DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
ACTIONS:**

At its March 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update about the Racial Justice Commission.

Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about the draft 2022 assessment formula.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee.

Heard a report from the St. John St. James Church, Roxbury Executive Committee about the restoration of the property.

Voted to withdraw up to \$888,588 from invested funds for the following purposes: the additional costs of the renovation of St. Mark's rectory, Dorchester; phases II and III of the renovation of St. Luke's Chapel at St. John St. James Church, Roxbury; the additional costs of phase I of the renovation of St. Luke's Chapel, Roxbury; and an existing conditions survey of the former Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret, Allston. The withdrawal will be replaced from the proceeds of the sale of 40 Prescott Street in Brookline.

Voted to withdraw up to \$289,607 from invested funds for the maintenance, art preservation and emergency roof and retaining wall repairs to the property of St. John St. James Church, Roxbury.

At its April 15 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report about Bishop Gates's sabbatical plan.

Heard a report from the Assessment Coordinating Committee about pandemic relief.

Heard an update from the Treasurer's Office about outstanding 2020 parochial reports.

Voted to approve a new income-based formula for 2022 assessments. (Details will be sent to congregational clergy and treasurers in the annual May assessment letter from the diocesan Treasurer's Office.)

Heard a report about the Episcopal Church Asset Mapping tool.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about its review of survey results received from worshiping communities.

Heard an update from the Convention Office about plans for the 2021 Diocesan Convention, to be held on Nov. 12-13.

**Next Diocesan Council Meeting:** *Thursday, May 20 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.*

*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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**CLERGY SEARCH &  
CALL REPORT:**

[www.diomass.org/clergy  
transition](http://www.diomass.org/clergy_transition)

**Central Region**

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

**CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Billie Mae Gordon completed her ministry at All Saints' Church in Whitman on May 2.

The Rev. Bob Malm began as interim priest at St. Peter's Church in Buzzards Bay on May 1.

**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.*

**Northern and Western Region**

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

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

GLOUCESTER, St. John's 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.*

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*Continued from page 8***OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:**LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church: [Curate/Assistant](#)**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***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:***None at this time.***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *half-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 June 2 issue is **Wednesday, May 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).