



Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
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Prepare for Diocesan Convention at upcoming forums

Friday convention sessions open to all: Register [here](#).

Visit www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021 for materials, links and updates.

Registration is open online, [here](#), for Diocesan Convention, to be held *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13*, under the theme “Members One of Another.” **Friday plenary and break-out sessions, worship and the evening keynote program will be offered virtually and are open to all.** Registration for these programs is through the convention registration site, but one need not be a voting member to sign up and take part. Find a flier [here](#), and spread the word.

A series of **pre-convention forums** for clergy and delegates will be held online via Zoom 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 *Monday, Oct. 18* (Central Region); *Tuesday, Oct. 19* (Northern and Western Region); and *Thursday, Oct. 28* (Southern Region). A daytime forum for all regions will also be offered on *Friday, Oct. 29, 2-3:30 p.m.* Register to receive the Zoom links [here](#).

In addition, an online “**Mission Strategy Conversation**” has been scheduled for *Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.* A revision of the [current diocesan mission strategy](#), which was adopted in 2016, will come before this year’s Diocesan Convention for approval, as per diocesan canons which require the mission strategy to be reviewed no less frequently than once every five years. The Mission Strategy Committee invites members of the diocesan community to this on-line discussion of the revised mission strategy document. Registration is through the convention registration site, [here](#).

All convention-related questions may be e-mailed to convention@diomass.org.

Litany and gatherings offered for Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Oct. 11

A “Litany for Indigenous Peoples’ Day,” written by Bishop Carol J. Gallagher, has been shared for use by congregations. Additionally, an online service for the diocesan community is being organized for Indigenous Peoples’ Day on *Monday, Oct. 11 at 4 p.m.* All are welcome. Find details to join and the litany text [here](#).

The gathering will be followed by an online screening of two films, “Dawnland” and “Dear Georgina,” with live Q&A with the filmmakers, from 7-9 p.m., presented in honor of Indigenous Peoples’ Day and co-sponsored by the Peabody Essex Museum, Hopelink and the Upstander Project. Register for the film program and find more information [here](#). Questions about these gatherings may be directed to the Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

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Also on *Monday, Oct. 11, 5-6:30 p.m.*, The Episcopal Church is presenting an online panel discussion, “Native Voices: A Response to The Episcopal Church’s History with Indian Boarding Schools,” with a moderated Q&A to follow. The livestream webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Indigenous Ministries Facebook page](#) for later viewing. Find event details [here](#).

Last year, the Province I Indigenous Peoples Justice Network began meeting. Following a framework of “pray, learn, act and advocate,” participants from the seven dioceses of New England meet monthly by Zoom; anyone may join. A network is also starting up in the Diocese of Massachusetts, with a first meeting set for *Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m.* Contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org), for information about these networks and to join.

Racial Justice Commission’s reparations subcommittee invites reports

Last year’s Diocesan Convention adopted a resolution that invited congregations and institutions of the diocese “prayerfully and purposefully to explore their historic involvement in and present wealth derived from the forced labor of enslaved people,” and “to report their progress and actions to the Racial Justice Commission no later than the next Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts, November 2021.”

Diocesan Convention 2021 is fast approaching and the Racial Justice Commission’s Subcommittee on Reparations is eager to hear from congregations and others who have begun this important work. These reports and stories will help the subcommittee shape a series of supports being planned for 2022 to inspire and assist congregations in similar work. Submissions may be sent to the subcommittee co-chairs, Constance Perry and the Rev. H. Mark Smith, at hmsmith@diomass.org.

Special Nov. 5 screening of “A Reckoning in Boston” offered online

Join online on *Friday, Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*, for a screening of “A Reckoning in Boston,” a new documentary by James Rutenbeck (a member of St. Stephen’s Church in Boston). A conversation with the filmmakers will follow.

“A Reckoning in Boston” is “an absolute must see—especially for white audiences,” wrote *Boston Globe* film critic Ty Burr about the film, which explores systemic racism, economic inequality, street violence, trauma and lack of affordable housing in Boston by looking at the lives of Kafi Dixon, Carl Chandler and others in Dorchester. The film lends itself well to personal reflection and discussion, particularly for faith groups. It will be aired on PBS’s “Independent Lens” in January.

Registration is being handled through the Diocesan Convention registration site, [here](#) (one does not have to be a convention participant to register for this Nov. 5 film program).

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

NOTES:

- Registration for the annual diocesan **Clergy Day** on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 4-8 p.m.*, is available [here](#); registration closes Oct. 8. The format for **the event will be entirely virtual via Zoom**; the link to join will be e-mailed to registered participants. (Previous plans for in-person attendance options at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and satellite sites have had to be canceled.)

Keynote speaker the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers will draw from her new book, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community*, and from churchwide efforts toward truth-telling and discipleship, in order to help equip the gathering as a community of leaders and learners whose churches and communities have been “cracked open” by pandemic, racial reckoning, economic suffering and generations-long decline. *FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations and Events (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).*

- The laity of the diocese will have an opportunity to gather online for **“Cracked Open? Now What?”—a conversation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers**, via Zoom, on *Tuesday, Oct. 12, 12-1:15 p.m.*, ahead of her Clergy Day presentation later in the day.

As the temptation to get “back to normal” beckons in this season of regathering and reopening, how can communities be helped to embrace disruption, dismantle white supremacy and empire, fall in love with Jesus and embody the dream of God? Online registration is open, [here](#), for joining this important conversation. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem will host a **reception in honor of the Most Rev. Hosam E. Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem**, on *Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Naoum will speak about current conditions in the region and his vision for the Diocese of Jerusalem and its humanitarian ministries in Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon. To attend, RSVP by Oct. 7 to Betsy Wilson at 203-655-3575 or online at bit.ly/AFEDJ-Boston. (Registered guests will receive an e-mail detailing updated COVID-19 protocols prior to the event.)

Naoum also will preach at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston on *Sunday, Oct. 17 at the [10 a.m. service](#)*. All are welcome.

- The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will host a **Multicultural Celebration of Gratitude** on *Saturday, Oct. 16 from 4 to 7 p.m.* Join with friends both near and far to celebrate God’s gift of gratitude through food, music, worship, prayers and story sharing. Three United Thank Offering (UTO) grant recipients will be honored: ProGente Connections in Framingham, St. Stephen’s Youth Programs, Boston and the MANNA community at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Register [here](#).

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Event proceeds will be donated to the UTO to be redistributed as part of next year's grant awards.

This event is currently designed to offer both in-person attendance and online streaming access. The format will be updated if warranted by evolving COVID-19 metrics and protocols.

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

- The diocesan Congregational Consultants are presenting a series of **Zoom seminars on the practical aspects of congregational leadership**:

- **“Congregational Budgets”**: What is a budget and what is it used for? How does leadership construct and review its budget in these uncertain times? This session is recommended particularly for treasurers and finance/budget committee members, as well as vestry members reviewing and approving budgets. The seminar will be led by Chris Meyer, coordinator of the diocesan Congregational Consultants, and will be offered twice: *Saturday, Oct. 16, 9-10 a.m.* (register [here](#)) and *Tuesday, Oct. 19, 9-10 a.m.* (register [here](#)).

- *Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-noon*, **“Inter-Congregational Collaborations”**: Considering collaboration with another congregation, but not sure where to begin? The regional canons are hosting this opportunity to meet others engaged in various kinds of collaboration (sharing clergy, sharing outreach ministry, sharing formation and worship) and hear their experience of beginning, working through challenges and enjoying the fruit of collaboration. There will be panelist presentations, time for Q&A and break-out room conversations. Register [here](#).

Sessions will be recorded and available for playback [here](#).

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

- The monthly online **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders** resumes this month. Interim diocesan CFO Cynthia Hallenbeck invites clergy, wardens and treasurers to gather with her for this regular opportunity to share information on finance-related matters. The forum will be offered on the *fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.*, with the next session on *Oct. 26*. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link.

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

Youth & Young Adult Ministries:

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

- The Young Adult Advisory Committee, Life Together and campus ministries in the Diocese of Massachusetts, along with the Young Adult Network of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, are **gathering young adults for an in-person retreat** on *Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Friendly Crossways in Harvard, with a Friday overnight option. The theme is “Learning to Walk with God in the World,” with a focus on discernment. Register online [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Jocelyn Collen (jocelyn@diomassintern.org).*

- **Diocesan Youth Council 2021-2022:** Applications ([here](#)) are still being accepted for this year’s Diocesan Youth Council. Diocesan Youth Council (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. Please help recruit young people who might be ready to step up—or be raised up—to active ministry on the diocesan level. Hear about the experience of DYC from participants and mentors in this [May E-News article](#). For more information, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith (hmsmith@diomass.org). He and current DYC members and mentors would be happy to come talk with churches’ young people.

- The ongoing **online gatherings for youth workers** in the Diocese of Massachusetts will now be held on the first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. The next meeting, on *Thursday, Oct. 7*, will report on findings from a focus group with young people held this summer exploring their needs regarding mental health support and their suggestions on how best to offer that support. For more information, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew issued in September a “Joint Message for the Protection of Creation,”** calling on people to pray for world leaders ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November. It also calls on individuals to make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet, working together and taking responsibility for how we use our resources; and, for those with far-reaching responsibilities, to choose people-centered profits and lead the transition to just and sustainable economies. The statement reads: “We call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.” Find the full statement [here](#).

- U.S. Episcopalians interested in helping with voter engagement for the 2022 midterm elections are invited to participate in a newly launched program. Volunteers in the **new Episcopal Election Activators program** will work with the Office of Government Relations over the next year to promote and facilitate local, non-partisan voter engagement efforts. Activators will meet regularly to develop and implement strategies, share stories and build a network across the country to help increase voter turnout and encourage others to take on a greater role in the elections.

Episcopal Activator volunteers are asked for a one-year commitment (through the 2022 midterm elections). They will be expected to adhere strictly to non-partisan engagement while connecting with local congregations, sharing resources within their networks, directing and mobilizing Episcopalians to support elections through voter registration and education, providing rides to the polls on election day and performing other tasks as needed.

Find more information and the application [here](#).

- Responding to a hunger for deeper discipleship among Episcopal congregations, creators of the [My Way of Love](#) initiative have announced a new spiritual journey guide, video and other materials designed for small groups: **“My Way of Love for Small Groups”** expands on the individualized spiritual journey laid out in My Way of Love and offers step-by-step guidance, Scripture, prayers and reflections for nine weekly group gatherings. The resources are available [here](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Deanery grant (House of Mercy and Sending Serving) application award decisions are due from deaneries** no later than *Wednesday, Oct. 13*. Applications must have been approved by vote of the deanery assembly prior to submission to the diocesan offices for funding. To be eligible, congregations must be in compliance with basic financial and reporting requirements, which can be found [here](#). (To qualify for future awards, a year-end report is expected from congregations that receive grants; if applicable, an online form for submitting 2020 reports is available [here](#).)

Once applications have been approved, deaneries should communicate award decisions (one submission per application/award) and send completed applications using [this online form](#).

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

- The application and program information for **2022 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 15, 2021*, for sabbaticals in 2022. Submit applications to David Ames, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Suffragan, by e-mail at dames@diomass.org or by mail to him at the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas (theakl@mit.edu) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole (sjrobbinscole@gmail.com).*

- **Application materials now available for 2022 UTO grants:**

Creation care is the focus of this year's United Thank Offering (UTO) grant program, and information about the application process is now available online [here](#). Each diocese is permitted to submit only one grant application, so all applications must first be submitted to the diocesan UTO committee by *Friday, Dec. 10*. This date allows enough time for the committee to review the applications and make a recommendation to the bishop prior to the UTO deadline of Feb. 4. Although not required, it will be helpful to notify Martha Gardner by Nov. 5 of intention to apply. Applications may be submitted to her at the e-mail address below.

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

- **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. Applications are received and grants awarded on a rolling basis until the funds are gone. Learn more [here](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Sept. 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about the proposed mission strategy to be sent to Diocesan Convention.

Heard an update on outstanding 2020 parochial reports.

Voted to endorse the proposed 2022 budget summary and recommended favorable action by Diocesan Convention on the budget resolution to be presented to the convention.

Heard a presentation about multi-year budget viewing and how it may be used by the Budget Committee and Diocesan Council for budget planning.

Heard a report from the Convention Office about the 2021 Diocesan Convention planning.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Oct. 21, 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:

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Jonathan Eden completes his ministry as assistant rector at Christ Church in Cambridge as of Oct. 17.

The Rev. Kate Ekrem has been called as rector of Christ Church in Cambridge.

The Rev. Nathan Ives was elected rector, effective July 1, of St. Peter's-San Pedro in Salem, where he has been serving as priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Kezlon Semanda Kiwanuka has been appointed vicar of St. Peter's Anglican Church-Boston in Waltham effective Sept. 1.

The Rev. John McGinn has been appointed interim priest at Trinity Church in Marshfield.

The Rev. Kevin Sparrow, who has been serving as rector of St. Andrew's Church in Hanover, has been appointed priest-in-charge of Christ Church in Montpelier, Vt.

The Rev. Sarah Van Gulden completed her ministry as priest-in-charge at Trinity Church in Haverhill and executive director of Urban Bridges on Sept. 30.

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church
WESTWOOD, St. John'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.)*

None at this 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.

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church

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

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

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CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:*None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church](#)**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church *quarter-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church

HOLBROOK, St. John's Church

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church](#) *half-time (updated profile)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) *half-time*[SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity](#) *half-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.*

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the Nov. 3 issue is **Wednesday, Oct. 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.