



Wednesday, Nov. 3, 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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Nov. 12-13 Diocesan Convention weekend events are open to all

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

The annual Diocesan Convention takes place *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13*, under the theme “Members One of Another.” Friday’s full line-up of plenary and break-out sessions, worship and evening keynote program is open to all. Convention’s annual business sessions follow on Saturday; delegates and clergy will participate via Zoom, with a livestream available for those who wish to observe the proceedings. **All convention Zoom sessions and the Saturday livestream will be presented via a virtual event management platform, so pre-registration will be necessary to access them. Find registration [here](#).** Visitor registration to access the Saturday livestream will remain open that day. All convention-related questions may be e-mailed to convention@diomass.org.

There is still time to sign up via the convention registration site, [here](#), for the following pre-convention programs, open to all:

- An online “**Mission Strategy Conversation**” on *Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.* The Mission Strategy Committee invites members of the diocesan community to this online discussion of the revised mission strategy document that will come before the Diocesan Convention.
- An online screening of the documentary film “**A Reckoning in Boston,**” followed by conversation with the filmmakers, on *Friday, Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

Questions about these pre-convention programs may be directed to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

Ministry Discernment Conference for inquirers set for Feb. 5

Registration will open online in December for the **annual Ministry Discernment Conference** offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry, to be held on *Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, and currently planned as an in-person event at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. (The snow date is Feb. 12.)

The conference will provide an in-depth look at the 2022 edition of the Ministry Discernment Handbook and gives potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts as they consider whether their call is to ordained ministry or committed lay ministry. Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2022 is required to attend the conference, along with a sponsoring priest and at least one member of the Parish Discernment Committee.

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

NOTES:

- The diocesan Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries welcomes all for a **Multicultural Celebration of All the Saints who Struggled for Justice and Freedom**, to be held on *Saturday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.* via Zoom. Those with a saint they wish to celebrate are invited to e-mail the name and a short description by Nov. 5 to jbntagengwa@diomass.org. Register for the event [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).*
 - The **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for 2021-2022** is now available at www.diomass.org/prayer-cycles. “For generations, our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer has helped us live into our call to be members one of another. I encourage you to make praying for the communities and groups listed here on their appointed Sundays part of your regular round of corporate prayer,” Dean Amy McCreath writes in an accompanying letter that invites particular prayer requests from congregations and ministries prior to their appointed Sundays. *FOR INFORMATION: Brad Rothrock, Administrator, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (brothrock@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).*
 - As congregations approach year’s end and begin planning for annual meetings, the [Standing Committee](#) would like to highlight the **process for bylaw and constitution revision**. A brief outline of the recommended revision process is available [here](#). Model by-laws for parishes and missions are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).*
 - The diocesan Congregational Consultants’ ongoing series of **Zoom seminars on the practical aspects of congregational leadership** continues with “**Year-End Financial Closing Issues**,” to address matters about which treasurers and bookkeepers should be concerned as they wrap up the year in December, close the books in January and prepare financial reports to be presented at the congregation’s annual meeting. A checklist will be provided. The seminar will be offered twice: *Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 9 a.m.* ([register for Nov. 17 here](#)) and *Saturday, Dec. 4 at 9 a.m.* ([register for Dec. 4 here](#)). *FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator (chris@centrestent.com).*
 - The monthly online **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders** continues on the *fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.* 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. Next sessions are on *Nov. 23 and Dec. 21*. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link. *FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO (challenbeck@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).*
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- **Advent space for contemplation and evening devotions:**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will again offer an expanded, seven-week season of Advent this year, joining a movement to recover an ancient practice and afford time and space in which to prepare more fully for the coming of Christ. Starting *Sunday, Nov. 7*, the cathedral sanctuary will be set up with seven stations for prayer and contemplation, each one centered on an “O, Antiphon.” On *Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.*, all are invited to come in for rest, prayer and contemplation. A service of evening devotions will follow at *5 p.m.*

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (brothrock@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221); www.stpaulboston.org.

- **“Make Your Home in Me” Advent Quiet Day:** This online Advent Quiet Day on *Saturday, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*, invites everyone to join for a time of silence and guided meditation, presentations and small group conversation, and free time for solitary prayer. This joint online retreat with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts will be led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, and is open to all. Share the invitation, and register online [here](#).

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

- A network is forming in the dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts around the **Poor People’s Campaign**, with an **inaugural meeting** via Zoom on *Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7-8 p.m.* E-mail Martha Gardner at mgardner@diomass.org for the Zoom link.

The goal is to build a network that connects Episcopalians in Massachusetts who support the Poor People’s Campaign and/or are interested in learning more about the campaign nationally and its work in Massachusetts. The group will be organizing a book study of the recently published [We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Amelia Slawsby, St. Dunstan’s Church, Dover (amelia.slawsby.mappc@gmail.com) or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- On Oct. 12 about 50 members of the laity joined for **“Cracked Open? Now What?”**—an online conversation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care. Spellers and participants discussed how communities can be helped to embrace disruption, dismantle white supremacy and empire, fall in love with Jesus and embody the dream of God. Resources referenced include the [Racial Justice Commission](#) of the Diocese of Massachusetts, the [Poor People’s Campaign](#) and Spellers’s [book website](#). A recording of the discussion is available for viewing [here](#).

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

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 Rev. H. Mark Smith has announced that he will be retiring** as missionary for youth and young adult ministries for the diocese, effective Jan. 30, 2022. Smith served the diocesan Office of Youth Ministries as deacon for five years before joining the diocesan staff in 2014 as director of youth ministries. During his tenure, the scope of the office has expanded to include young adult ministries as well. Read the full announcement [here](#).
- **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 continue on the *first Thursday of the month at 3 p.m.* For more information, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Analysis of the 2020 Parochial Report data** is now available on the General Convention website at www.generalconvention.org/parochialreportresults, including multiyear attendance and finance trends for individual churches and dioceses, as well as a [special narrative report](#) of qualitative data on how COVID-19 impacted congregations. A variety of metrics are presented on the Research and Statistics pages, including a graph that shows trends over the past 10 years in Sunday worship attendance, finances and baptized membership for any congregation in the church; data trends across the denomination, provinces and dioceses; and demographic information of the neighborhood around any church.
Questions can be e-mailed to pr@episcopalchurch.org.
- 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:● **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 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 Oct. 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to approve an assessment payment plan for St. Peter's Church in Salem.

Heard an update from the Convention Office about the 2021 Diocesan Convention planning and preparations.

Received the 2022 Diocesan Council meeting schedule.

Voted to approve an additional allocation of funds from the sale of the 40 Prescott Street, Brookline property to the Allston property project of up to \$1.5 million.

Thanked Betsy Ridge Madsen, Diane Grondin and Kathy McAdams for their time on Diocesan Council.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 2, 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:

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Paul Bresnahan began as bridge priest at Trinity Church in Haverhill on Oct. 24.
The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt began as interim priest at St. John's Church in Gloucester on Sept. 1.
The Rev. Susan Lee retired as rector of St. Luke's Church in Fall River on Sept. 30.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

WESTWOOD, St. John's Church

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.*

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

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

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.*

None at this time.

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

None at this time.

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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.*

None at this time.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadlines for the December and January issues are earlier than usual because of the holidays: **Wednesday, Nov. 17** for the December issue and **Wednesday, Dec. 15** for the January issue. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.