



Wednesday, Dec. 1, 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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New priests to be ordained

The diocesan community's prayers and virtual presence are invited for these upcoming ordinations to the priesthood:

- The Rev. Marcia Chanta Bhan on *Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m. (Eastern)/ 1:30 p.m. (Central)* at All Saints Episcopal School in Fort Worth, Tex.;
- The Rev. Lauren Banks and The Rev. Hailey Jacobsen on *Saturday, Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m.* at All Saints Church in Richmond, Va.;
- The Rev. Rowan Larson on *Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.* at the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill (note time change from previous announcements);
- The Rev. Kevin Neil on *Saturday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. (Eastern)/ 4 p.m. (Pacific)* at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Francisco, Calif.; and
- The Rev. Brett Johnson on *Saturday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m.* at All Saints Church of the North Shore in Danvers.

Please contact each hosting congregation directly about service details; available livestream links are posted on the diocesan Events calendar at www.diomass.org/events.

Registration is open for annual Ministry Discernment Conference

Registration is now open, [here](#), 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).

Diocesan Convention actions available online

- Actions of the Diocesan Convention, held *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13*, are available online. Find video links, the bishop's annual address, resolutions in final form, election results and materials at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021.

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

Holy Land pilgrimage scheduled for 2022

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria for “Encounters in the Holy Land,” a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, Oct. 17-28, 2022.

The mission pilgrimage will be led by licensed tour guide Iyad Qumri, a member of St. George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem, and will combine visits to holy sites, in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah, with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, health care and peacemaking ministries.

The deadline for registering is April 1. Estimated cost is \$4,400-\$4,600 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by Aug. 15. The group will meet two times before the trip for preparation and community building.

The pilgrimage is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in experiencing the land of the birth of the Christian faith; who is willing to listen and learn from siblings in God who live their faith in a different culture and context; and who want to engage in God’s mission beyond their doorstep.

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).

NOTES:

- **Virtual gathering with Bishop Gates:** Join on *Thursday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.* for an online discussion with Bishop Gates about two key ministries: **Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and Immigration and Multicultural Ministries.** These areas of work have grown and deepened over the last two years, and have made exciting progress, with more to come. Questions will be welcome. Registration is required to receive the link to join the gathering. Register [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development (baustinspooner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

- All are invited to join the Rev. Jen Vath and Martha Gardner in a **nine-week diocesanwide Epiphany program.** Each participant will first take a spiritual inventory, and then, using the [My Way of Love for Small Groups curriculum](#) as a guide, the group will meet weekly to journey the Way of Love together. The program is intended for participants who wish to receive some guidance about ways to grow spiritually—deepening love of God and neighbor. Weekly gatherings will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. starting on *Tuesday, Jan. 4* and concluding *Tuesday, March 1.*

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

- Save the date for a **Zoom workshop on Inter-Congregational Collaborations**: Considering collaborations with another congregation, but not sure where to begin? Curious about what collaborations look like and how they work? Join the Collaborative Ministries Working Group on *Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*, to hear from people engaged in a variety of collaborations (sharing clergy, sharing outreach ministries, sharing formation and worship). Hear about their experiences of beginning, working through challenges and enjoying the fruit of collaboration. There will be panelist presentations, time for Q&A and break-out group conversations. The registration link will be posted on the Events calendar, [here](#), and provided in the January issue of FYI.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Megan Holding (theholdings@gmail.com).

- **“Preaching Hope in a Climate Crisis” with Jim Antal and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**: If the world’s average temperature will soon shoot past the 1.5°C target to ensure climate stability, how do we preach about hope? Geared to the season of Epiphany, this informal, hour-long conversation will provide a space for reflecting on Gospel hope, keeping in mind the systemic challenge of keeping fossil fuels in the ground and the connections between racial, economic and environmental justice. The session will touch upon a few lectionary readings for the Epiphany season, and there will be opportunities for questions and discussion. This ecumenical event is open at no charge to all preachers, and will take place on *Tuesday, Jan. 25, 10-11 a.m.* via Zoom.

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

- One of the actions called for by Diocesan Convention in the resolution [“Charting the Long Road Towards Reparations”](#) is a charge to the Subcommittee on Reparations of the [Racial Justice Commission](#) to develop a **study series for Lent 2022**. The subcommittee has already begun this work, envisioning a six-session series designed for use by small groups or whole congregations. It will include short readings, discussion guides, individual reflection prompts and more. More material will be available after the first of the year, but early planners can seek further information by e-mailing the subcommittee at reparations@diomass.org.

- All **children’s formation colleagues** in the diocese—paid or volunteer, clergy or lay, full or part-time—are welcome at regular **online gatherings** scheduled on these upcoming *Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: Dec. 9 and Jan. 13*.

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

- A number of active **ministry networks meet regularly and welcome others** to join them. Upcoming meetings include:
 - Poor People’s Campaign Network: Inaugural meeting on *Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.*
 - Global Mission Commission Network: *Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m.*
 - Food Security Network: *Thursday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.*
 - B-PEACE Network: *Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.*

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

- **Help the Young Adult Advisory Committee spread the word:** Young adults from across the diocese are invited to gather for a **festive, informal networking event** on *Sunday, Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m.*, at Darryl’s Corner Bar & Kitchen (608 Columbus Avenue) in Boston. Free “mocktails” and appetizers will be offered as well as reimbursement for parking or transit, if needed. The goal is to gather in person (masked and appropriately distanced) and meet other young adults in the diocese. Registration is required, [here](#), to make sure there is enough food.

FOR INFORMATION: *Isaac Martinez (imartinez@stpaulsbrookline.org).*

- **The Life Together 2022-2023 application is now live:** [Life Together](#) is inviting young adults who are committed to social justice and looking for a year of spiritual and vocational discernment to apply to join Life Together’s next cohort.

Life Together shares a common application with churchwide Episcopal Service Corps programs, allowing for application to up to five programs per application. Life Together will accept applications until all its fellowship positions are filled. Visit www.lifetogethercommunity.org/apply or e-mail any questions to apply@diomassintern.org.

Life Together strives to create a supportive space for the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders to grow and thrive. An initiative of the Diocese of Massachusetts and a member of the Episcopal Service Corps, Life Together is a 10-24 month fellowship that matches young adults (21-32 years of age) 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 conversations on racial justice and take part in diverse spiritual practices. Life Together is a queer- and trans-affirming community committed to dismantling white supremacy and oppression.

FOR INFORMATION: *Jocelyn Collen, Life Together Associate Director of Training and Recruitment (jocelyn@diomassintern.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 216).*

- The diocesan Congregational Consultants' ongoing series of **Zoom seminars on the practical aspects of congregational leadership** continues with "**Year-End Financial Closing Issues**" on *Saturday, Dec. 4 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)).

To support the deadline for Parochial Report submission by March 1, the **January sessions will focus on Parochial Report preparation**—first, on compiling the financial data and second, on entering the non-financial information.

The **financial section** will be presented by Terry Robinson, longtime consultant and parish auditor, on *Tuesday, Jan. 11* ([register here](#)) and repeated on *Saturday, Jan. 15* ([register here](#)).

The Rev. Cynthia Hubbard, longtime priest and former canon for transition, will present the **session on Parochial Report non-financial information** on *Tuesday, Jan. 18* ([register here](#)) and again on *Saturday, Jan. 22* ([register here](#)). All sessions run from 9 to 10 a.m.

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 *Dec. 21 and Jan. 25*. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link.

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

- **Transfer assistance available for stock gifts:** Many stewardship campaigns are underway, and for some pledgers, giving appreciated stock is an excellent way to support their congregation. The diocese can accept stock, sell it and mail a check to the congregation at no cost to the donor and the congregation. Please be in touch with Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development, at baustinspooner@diomass.org to get the stock transfer instructions and account numbers. It is crucial for diocesan staff to get advance notice of a stock transfer to ensure they know where to direct the funds and whom to thank.

- 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 bylaws 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).

CHURCHWIDE:

All Episcopalians are invited to review and offer comments on The Episcopal Church Executive Council's draft budget for 2023-2024 (find it [here](#)). Feedback must be received by *Wednesday, Dec. 15* and can be submitted using [this form](#).

All feedback is welcome. The Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Finance is particularly seeking the church's wisdom on three mission and values questions as it pertains to the budget:

- Are there areas out of alignment with where The Episcopal Church is going?
- Are there areas where The Episcopal Church is reverting to "empire" behavior or otherwise misusing its power?
- Are there areas where The Episcopal Church can lessen disparities created by the pandemic?

Find more details about the priorities, components and considerations included in the current budget draft, as well as next steps in the churchwide budget-building process, [here](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

● **Applications for 2022 UTO grants are due to diocesan committee by Dec. 10:** 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. Applications may be submitted to Martha Gardner 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:

Next Council Meetings: *Thursday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.* via Zoom, and *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 14-15*, retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.

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. Kit Lonergan completed her service as rector of St. James's Church in Groveland on Nov. 28 and began new ministry as priest for welcome and care at Trinity Church in Boston on Dec. 1.

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:

BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church
GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church
GROVELAND, St. James'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.)

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

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

METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church

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 deadline for the January issue is earlier than usual because of the holidays: **Wednesday, Dec. 15 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.