



Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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Looking toward Lent:

*Bishops issue guidance for
Ash Wednesday observance*

“We approach Lent yet again with unexpected concerns about how to balance our observance of this sacred season with care for one another in an extended pandemic,” the bishops wrote in their **guidance for observing Ash Wednesday**, issued on Jan. 27 and available [here](#). The guidelines, they said, “provide options for some return to our cherished Ash Wednesday practices, with continued precautions in place. May we find this Lenten season a time to bend the knee of our heart, praying with the psalmist: ‘Give me the joy of your saving help again, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.’” All COVID-19 updates and guidelines continue to be made available at www.diomass.org/covid-19-updates-resources.

*Racial Justice Commission offers
“What is Truth?” Lenten study
series*

The new six-session **Lenten study series—“What is Truth?”— offered by the Racial Justice Commission’s Subcommittee on Reparations** is now available in full as part of the Reparations Toolkit at www.diomass.org/reparations-toolkit. The series invites congregations, small study groups and individuals to go deeper into Pilate’s question “What is truth?” and includes introductory material for facilitators and a detailed, flexible guide for each session. Read more [here](#), and direct questions to the subcommittee at reparations@diomass.org.

*Cathedral Lenten Preaching
Series to complement Racial
Justice Commission study series*

This year’s **Lenten Preaching Series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston—“Practicing Truth”—will run alongside the Lenten study series offered by the Racial Justice Commission**. This year’s preachers will draw on Scripture and their lived experience to stir us to a deeper practice of truth and prepare us for Easter joy. Join one another at the cathedral at *12:15 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent, starting March 3*, to hear the sermon in person and stay for a light lunch and conversation with the preacher, or join by livestream through the [cathedral’s website](#).

Also of note this Lent:

Ash Wednesday, March 2 with the bishops at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston: Services at *12 and 6 p.m.* Find more details [here](#) and at www.stpaulboston.org.

“Preaching Hope in a Climate Crisis” with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas and Jim Antal: This ecumenical event is open at no charge to all preachers, and will take place on *Tuesday, March 15, 10-11 a.m.* via Zoom. The session will touch upon a few lectionary readings for Lent, and there will be opportunities for questions and discussion. [Register here](#).

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

“Reconciliation: Putting a Burden Down,” an online Lenten Quiet Day via Zoom, is sponsored by both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses, open to all and led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas on *Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.-noon*. Through brief presentations and conversation, as well as silent prayer and guided meditation, this retreat will give space to explore and to pray about the places in our lives where God may be inviting us to let go our burdens of resentment, guilt or shame. Find more details and registration [here](#).

Help spread the word to young adults: **Online Lenten community for young adults** is again being offered beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2 via [40Form | Lent](#). Those who register will receive daily e-mails with suggested journal activities to help them reflect on the stories they tell themselves, the influences in their lives, their strengths and weaknesses, the opportunities and threats that enable their purpose, and how they approach decision making. Young adults looking for greater connection with peers can also choose to join a weekly online discussion group to share with others their reflections, questions, ponderings and prayers.

Access to this program is being offered free to all participants, supported by the diocesan Young Adult Advisory Committee. For more information or to sign up, an online form is available [here](#).

Sermon videos available to congregations: The bishops and designated diocesan staff members will be self-recording video sermons for use by congregations in their online worship offerings for *Sundays, March 6 through May 22* (excluding Easter Day). These are intended as a gift of support to clergy and congregations.

The plan calls for sermons to be available mid-week prior to each assigned Sunday, for download via [this link](#), where the rota is also posted, or for viewing at www.youtube.com/ediomass (“Seasonal Sermons” playlist).

Find additional **Episcopal Church Lenten resources** collected at www.episcopalchurch.org/lent-resources.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- The diocesan community is invited to **join in giving thanks for the life and witness of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu** on *Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m.* The livestreamed service of Holy Eucharist will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris will co-preside, and a sermon will be offered by the Rev. Noble Scheepers, co-chair of the diocesan Racial Justice Commission, who was mentored by and worked with Tutu.

Because of COVID-19 protocols, in-person attendance is limited to 50. The livestream will be available to all via the [cathedral’s website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Find more details [here](#).

● All are welcome to join the **Creation Care Justice Network's annual retreat** on Zoom on *Saturday, Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon*. The retreat theme is "Embodying Change," and will include reflection on ways to support and engage congregations in participating in systemic climate justice work, using or adapting a United Church of Christ tiered action tool. An afternoon session (1-2:30 p.m.) will be time for working group members and others to develop specific goals and timelines for upcoming months. Register [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt (lise.hild@posteo.net).*

● The Racial Justice Commission's Subcommittee on BIPOC Support will host two upcoming gatherings.

Women clergy of color are invited to a luncheon on *Saturday, Feb. 12 at noon* at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington. RSVP by Feb. 9 to the subcommittee contacts listed below.

Help spread the word within congregations and ministry communities that, in follow-up to a Zoom lunch held at the Diocesan Convention in November, a **Zoom event is planned to continue to build community and support** for Black, Indigenous and People of Color, to be held on *Tuesday, March 8, 7-8:30 p.m.* Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

FOR INFORMATION: Claudette Hunt (claudettehunt@aol.com) or The Rev. Diane Wong (dianeckwong@gmail.com).

● As part of the continuing series of **seasonal devotions for the clergy of the diocese**, Bishop Alan M. Gates will offer three Zoom gatherings for reflection, shared prayer and conversation. The sessions are organized by region, but clergy are welcome to join another session if unable to attend on their region's assigned date:

- *Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 5 p.m.* (Central Region);
- *Friday, Feb. 18 at 9 a.m.* (Northern and Western Region);
- *Friday, Feb. 18 at 5 p.m.* (Southern Region).

Zoom links have been e-mailed directly to the clergy.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gates, (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).

● The diocesan community's prayers and virtual presence are invited for the **ordination of the Rev. Ben Crosby to the priesthood** on *Saturday, Feb. 26 at 10 a.m.* at St. Paul's Church in Malden. Please contact [St. Paul's Church](#) for service details. A livestream will be available [here](#).

● 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 deadline for registering is April 1.** Find more details [here](#).

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

- This is the time of year when congregations need to submit their **annual Leadership Report and Lay Delegate Certification Form**, which are distributed annually to collect updated church, clergy and lay leadership contact information. The report comprises three parts, and congregations are asked to submit all three to the Office of Convention and Council *within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons and no later than Tuesday, March 1.*

The information provided through this process is critical to make sure that important diocesan information reaches congregations' current leaders in the upcoming year. Find links and more details [here](#).

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

- The **filing site for the 2021 Parochial Report is now open** for congregations to begin reporting their data. The General Convention Office sent an e-mail to congregation leaders with instructions in December.

Reports from congregations are **due by March 1** and must be submitted on the filing site. See the [Parochial Report Information page](#) on the General Convention website for forms and instructions. For the second year, qualitative data is being collected through narrative questions along with the quantitative data that has been gathered historically. The Parochial Report is the oldest, continuous gathering of data by The Episcopal Church.

If log-in assistance is needed, contact Nathaniel Fasman, Compensation and Benefits Coordinator (nfasman@diomass.org).

- Interested in vital information on your congregation? The Episcopal Church's General Convention Office provides **online tools for exploring Parochial Report trends**, including 10-year history of attendance, pledge and plate income and membership for individual Episcopal churches. Find the tools at www.generalconvention.org/explore-parochial-report-trends.

- As part of its series on the practical aspects of congregational leadership, the Congregational Consultants are leading a seminar on **"What Every Treasurer Needs to Know."** It will cover the basic responsibilities of congregational treasurers, the timing and content of tasks that must be performed and practical hints on how to perform the responsibilities most accurately and efficiently. Run by Betsy Blagdon, congregational consultant, auditor and small-parish treasurer, this is an opportunity for new treasurers to understand their role, for seasoned treasurers to adopt best practices and for others in leadership roles to understand the treasurer's role. The one-hour seminar will be given twice, on *Tuesday, Feb. 15* ([register here](#)) and *Saturday, Feb. 19* ([register 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 *Feb. 22 and March 22*. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link. *FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO (challenbeck@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).*

- Registration is open, [here](#), for the **2022 Clergy Conference**, taking place *Monday, April 25-Wednesday, April 27* at the Babson Executive Conference Center in Wellesley, with both virtual and limited in-person attendance options. The guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, William Maude Chair in Systematic Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Plans will be adjusted as necessary over upcoming weeks; currently, those attending can expect:

- In-person capacities and distancing will follow the current diocesan COVID-19 protocols.
- In-person attendees must be fully vaccinated.
- Meals will be eaten in the conference center dining room and will allow for physical distancing.
- Fixed costs require a fee for all participants.

After two years of conferencing solely online, the Clergy Professional Development Committee welcomes this hybrid opportunity, and can be reached with any questions at CPDC@diomass.org.

- **Clergy Professional Development Days** in 2022 comprise a workshop on microaggression, provided by the diocesan Racial Justice Commission, and a separate Safe Church review segment, with each offered four times between March and September.

The workshop on microaggression will be offered on:

- *Tuesday, March 8, 4:30-7 p.m.* via Zoom
- *Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* via Zoom
- *Tuesday, June 14, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston; and
- *Friday, Sept. 9, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston.

The Safe Church Review segment fulfills the refresher requirement, along with attendance at the above workshop, for those clergy who are due for one this year. It will be offered on:

- *Wednesday, March 9, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.* via Zoom
- *Friday, April 8, 5-7 p.m.* via Zoom
- *Tuesday, June 14, 1-3 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; and
- *Friday, Sept. 9, 1-3 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston

Find more details and the registration link [here](#).

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

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS:

- **Confirmation services for 2022** have been scheduled and are posted on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/resources/confirmation-services. Churches from all deaneries are welcome at any of the gatherings. The size and final plans for the services will depend on the course of the pandemic and will be adjusted in accord with diocesan protocols.

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: Brad Rothrock, Administrator, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (brothrock@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).

- **Two youth retreats are in the works for the spring:**

- **“The Human in All of Us”:** This will be a **day-long event for middle and high school students** and their mentors on *Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.* (instead of the overnight event originally planned at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center). The event will include workshops on wellness, small-group time to share experiences of other young people, speakers and an invitation to participate in a service project to support unhoused people in the diocese. Location and registration information coming soon.

- The **Pre-Confirmation Retreat** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., is still scheduled for *Friday-Saturday, April 1-2*. Organizers will continue to evaluate the COVID-19 situation, and if it seems unwise to gather for an overnight, a day-long event in the diocese will be offered instead.

- **The Life Together 2022-2023 application is still live:** [Life Together](http://LifeTogether.org) 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, and will accept applications until all its fellowships 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).

GRANTS & LOANS:

An updated document for 2022 **summarizing diocesan grant and loan programs** is now available [here](#). Many accept applications on a rolling basis; programs with upcoming deadlines for letters of intent or applications include [Congregational Development Grants](#) and [Sustainable Development Grants](#) (in March) and [Mission Tithe Relationship Grants](#) (in April).

Recipients of CDG funds in 2021 are asked to complete a grant report form, [here](#). This report is due by *March 1*. Grant-recipient congregations become eligible for further CDG funds upon submitting this report.

Recipients of a 2021 deanery House of Mercy or Sending Serving Grant need to submit a brief year-end report on their ministries, required before they are eligible to receive deanery grant funds in subsequent years. Recipients should use this opportunity to showcase their project and good stewardship of funds. The report form is available [here](#) and is due by *Oct. 1*.

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Dec. 2 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to endorse and authorize the Budget Process Pilot Program.

Heard an Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries report.

Gave feedback on the 2021 Diocesan Convention.

Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.

Voted to approve four diocesan staff clergy housing allowance changes.

At its Jan. 15 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Task Force on Common Mission.

Heard updates from the Treasurer's Office about the diocesan audit, outstanding assessment payments and filing deadlines for the Parochial Report and Congregational Leadership Report.

Voted to approve a diocesan staff clergy housing allowance, and heard that the Executive Committee voted at its meeting to approve an additional diocesan personnel clergy housing allowance.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee and discussed its role in the new goals.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 17, 6-8:30 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. Thea Keith-Lucas has been named chaplain to the institute at MIT in Cambridge, beginning Jan. 1, after serving in the role in an interim capacity since August 2020.

The Rev. William Rich retired from Trinity Church in Boston on Jan. 31.

The Rev. Luther Zeigler began as interim pastor at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newington, N.H., on Jan. 2.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church
CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church
MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent
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.*
BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church, *part-time*

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church: [Assistant Rector](#)

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church
HUDSON, St. Luke's Church

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

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church
GROVELAND, St. James's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

Continued on page 9

*Continued from page 8***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*
METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church (updated to half-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:**FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church
HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church
HOLBROOK, St. John's Church
MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:***None at this time.***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church](#) *half-time*[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.*
FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church *part-time*

NEXT *fyi*:*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the March issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 23 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.