



Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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## Prepare for Diocesan Convention at upcoming forums

Visit [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022) for materials, links and updates.

Online registration is open for Diocesan Convention, to take place *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29* at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers. Convention is **open to all** in the diocesan community and includes **non-business programming on Friday** exploring this year's theme, "By This They Will Know You: The Call of Love in Our Time and Place." Find the registration link, materials and more at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022).

A series of **Pre-Convention Forums** is scheduled, via Zoom, for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, to take place on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7-8:30 p.m.*: Central Region
- *Thursday, Oct. 6, 7-8:30 p.m.*: Northern and Western Region
- *Friday, Oct. 7, 2-3:30 p.m.*: All Regions
- *Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.*: Southern Region

To prepare for these forums, pre-recorded video reports will be available to view ahead of time, either on demand or with others via Zoom during a **viewing night** on *Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.*

Sign up for any and all sessions via the convention registration process, [here](#).

The form to request **exhibit space** (virtual, in-person tables at the venue or both) is available [here](#) for companies, organizations and programs. Application deadline is *Friday, Oct. 14*.

Questions may be e-mailed to [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org).

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## Bishop Harris announces upcoming retirement

Bishop Suffragan Gayle E. Harris has announced her upcoming retirement. After nearly 20 years of service, she plans to complete her work in the diocese as of Dec. 31 and then take sabbatical time ahead of her official retirement date of March 31, 2023.

At her request, in lieu of a diocesanwide gathering to celebrate her ministry, leave-taking events will be scheduled with groups with which she has worked closely. There will also be a time of recognition at Diocesan Convention on Oct. 29.

Bishop Alan M. Gates will not be calling for the election of a successor bishop suffragan, opting instead to appoint an assistant bishop. Following the process required by the canons of The Episcopal Church, the diocesan Standing Committee has given its consent for him to ask the Diocesan Convention to approve the creation of the assistant bishop position and authorize him to make the appointment.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

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### **Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend events invite sacred listening**

On Indigenous Peoples' Day, *Monday, Oct. 10* at Christ Church in Plymouth, the Rev. Canon Cornelia Eaton, Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Church in Navajoland, will join the bishops of both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses and Indigenous leaders from the Commonwealth for a symposium of sacred listening, lunchtime conversations and a worship service of lament and commitment. The program begins at 11 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Register online [here](#).

Canon Cornelia Eaton also will be the guest preacher at Old North Church in Boston on *Sunday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m.* All are welcome. RSVP for the service at Old North [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Assistant for Congregations and Grant Administration ([mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).*

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### **NEWS & EVENT NOTES:**

- The **Annual Enrollment** period for eligible employees is from *Oct. 12 to Nov. 2*. This is the period **when eligible employees can make changes to their enrollment in medical and dental insurance** without a qualifying event. The same plan offerings will be available in 2023 as in 2022. While this means that enrolled employees do not need to take any action to keep their current enrollment, the Church Pension Group (CPG) recommends that each employee log in to the system to verify their information.

- CPG will be sending out e-mails to all enrolled members with information on how to confirm their choices for next year.

- The Explanations of Benefits & Coverage for the medical and dental plans are available on [CPG's website](#).

- The diocese's policies for congregations to provide health insurance to employees can be found in the [Compensation and Benefits Guidelines](#).

- Employees who are eligible but not currently enrolled should contact Nathaniel Fasman at [nfasman@diomass.org](mailto:nfasman@diomass.org) if they would like to enroll in insurance for 2023. Contact him also to request a copy of the new rates for 2023.

*FOR INFORMATION: Nathaniel Fasman, Compensation and Benefits Coordinator ([nfasman@diomass.org](mailto:nfasman@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826 ext. 413).*

- The **Creation Care Justice Network** is a growing group of Episcopalians across Massachusetts engaged in working together to help congregations and individuals pray, learn, act and advocate on behalf of God's creation. Sign up [here](#) to get connected with the group. Newcomers are welcome at **upcoming meetings, via Zoom, on Wednesdays, Oct. 5 and 19 at 7 p.m.** (e-mail [CreationJusticeEp-isMa@gmail.com](mailto:CreationJusticeEp-isMa@gmail.com) for links and agenda).

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- Missioner for Networking and Formation Martha Gardner invites input via this [online survey](#) to help toward the goal of **connecting congregations** already engaged in ministries, or wanting to start ministries, with other congregations.

Additional upcoming formation and ministry networking opportunities, via Zoom, include:

- **Children's Formation Colleagues:** Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. and Oct. 20 at 3:30 p.m.

- **Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network:** Oct. 13 at 4 p.m.

- Weekly Bible Study reflecting on **We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People's Campaign**, Wednesdays at 9 a.m. (direct questions to the Rev. Paul Shoaf Kozak at [pshoafkozak@diomass.org](mailto:pshoafkozak@diomass.org)).

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

- A group of **Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Episcopalians** gets together monthly for mutual support and education and to help make their presence better known within the diocesan community. The next gathering is on *Thursday, Oct. 20 at 6:15 p.m.* (location to be determined). Those who would like to know more are invited to contact Grace Knowles ([booker04@msn.com](mailto:booker04@msn.com)) or the Rev. Diane Wong ([dianeckwong@gmail.com](mailto:dianeckwong@gmail.com)).

- The Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, together with Bishop Gayle E. Harris, will offer a series of **"Episcopal Church 101" sessions**, via Zoom, to which all are welcome. They take place 6-8 p.m. on *Oct. 11 and 13, Nov. 15 and 29 and Dec. 13*. Find topics and registration links [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Assistant for Congregations and Grant Admin. ([mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

- The Congregational Consultants are resuming their series of **Zoom seminars on practical aspects of congregational leadership**, with upcoming sessions on **clergy compensation and year-end financial matters**.

Chris Meyer, coordinator of the consultants, will lead the first seminar of the program year, covering clergy compensation. It is intended for treasurers, wardens and others who are interested in parochial clergy compensation, especially at budget time. The seminar will be given twice, each time at 9 a.m.: *Wednesday, Oct. 19* (register [here](#)) and *Saturday, Oct. 22* (register [here](#)).

For the next session, Terry Robinson, longtime consultant, auditor and author of the [treasurer's handbook](#), will present a checklist of financial issues that may require attention in December and January as congregations close their books for the year. This seminar will also be given twice at 9 a.m.: *Tuesday, Nov. 29* (register [here](#)) and *Saturday, Dec. 3* (register [here](#)).

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Over the last year or more, the consultants have conducted a number of seminars on a wide range of topics of interest to congregational lay and ordained leadership, from how to run an annual meeting to how to fill out the Parochial Report. These seminars are available for playback [here](#).

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

- **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered via Zoom on *Saturday, Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.* Register [here](#).

To be licensed by the bishop as a lay eucharistic visitor, one must complete training, be up to date with Safe Church training and have signed authorization from their congregation's clergy person. The application for licensing is online [here](#).

For those interested in providing local trainings at the deanery level, it will be helpful to attend the Nov. 19 training.

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

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## GRANTS & LOANS:

- **United Thank Offering 2023 grant applications now available:** Because the Diocese of Massachusetts may only submit one grant, it is recommended that those planning to submit an application contact Martha Gardner (as below) by *Friday, Dec. 2*. A diocesan committee needs time to review applications and make a recommendation to the bishop before the churchwide UTO deadline. All grant applications must be received by close of business to Martha Gardner on *Friday, Feb. 3*.

Find more information and application links, along with a schedule of webinars to assist with the application process and questions, [here](#).

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

- The Mission Strategy Committee encourages congregations, organizations and networks in the Diocese of Massachusetts to apply for **Wicked Good Idea Microgrants**. There is a total of \$10,000 available for 2022; grants can be between \$200 and \$1,000. Find the application, with criteria and examples of mission strategy-related projects, [here](#). Questions may be e-mailed to [missionstrategy@diomass.org](mailto:missionstrategy@diomass.org).

- The application and program information for **2023 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 17, 2022*, for sabbaticals in 2023; award decisions will be announced by *Nov. 18, 2022*.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas ([theakl@mit.edu](mailto:theakl@mit.edu)) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole ([sjrobbinscole@gmail.com](mailto:sjrobbinscole@gmail.com)), Sabbatical Grant Committee.*

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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

### **At its Aug. 11 meeting, the Diocesan Council:**

Moved into an executive session to discuss financial reports and the proposed 2023 diocesan budget.

Voted with one abstention to approve the Mission Initiatives Committee recommendations for the 2022 funding allocations to new mission initiatives as submitted.

Voted with one abstention to designate the proceeds of the sale of the property of the closed Church of the Good Shepherd in Fairhaven for the establishment of a \$100,000 seed fund for property development, subject to continued reporting to the Diocesan Council, and for support of the position of missioner for property stewardship.

Voted to approve the housing allowance of a clergy diocesan staff member.

Voted to approve signing authorization for diocesan financial accounts to Debra Thomas, effective on Sept. 1 or the start date of her position as chief financial officer.

Voted to approve the assessment adjustment of \$10,000 for the Church of the Advent in Medfield.

### **At its Sept. 17 retreat, the Diocesan Council:**

Voted to approve the proposed budget of revenue and expenses for 2023, including individual parish and mission assessments and approved adjustments for 2023, to be presented to the Diocesan Convention for its consideration and action.

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

## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

### **CLERGY CHANGES:**

**The Rev. Kate Bast** completes her service as rector of Trinity Church in Melrose on Oct. 14 and begins as interim priest at St. Michael's Church in Holliston on Oct. 18.

**The Rev. Scott Bellows** begins as interim priest at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable on Oct. 9.

**The Rev. Michael Deegan** began as interim priest at St. Stephen's Church in Boston on Oct. 2.

**The Rev. Barbara Peterson** began as interim priest at St. John's Church in Sandwich on Oct. 1.

### **CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

BOSTON, Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church

BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church

### **Central Region**

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

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DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church  
 MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent  
 ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

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

LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

WESTWOOD, St. John's Church

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

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church 1/4 time

MEDWAY, Christ Church 1/3 time

NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church 1/2 time

WEST ROXBURY, Emmanuel Church 1/4 time

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

BOSTON, Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

**OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**

BEDFORD, St. Paul's Church: [Curate/Associate](#)

**Northern and Western Region**  
 Regional Canon Martha Hubbard  
[mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

AYER, St. Andrew's Church

FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church

HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church

LOWELL, St. Anne's Church

LOWELL, St. John's Church

NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church

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

BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church

HUDSON, St. Luke's Church

MARBLEHEAD, St. Michael's Church

WESTON, St. Peter's Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*

[GROVELAND, St. James's Church](#) *(Short list search: Contact regional canon if interested) 1/2 time*

[WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church](#) 3/4 time

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*Continued from page 6***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.  
MALDEN, St. Paul's Church 1/4 time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.  
AYER, St. Andrew's Church 2/3 time  
NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church 1/2 time***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:***None at this time.***Southern Region***Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)***CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church  
HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist  
MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church  
PLYMOUTH, Christ Church  
SANDWICH, St. John's Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church  
PROVINCETOWN, Church of St. Mary of the Harbor  
WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church 1/2 time  
HOLBROOK, St. John's Church 1/2 time**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church](#) 1/2 time  
[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time  
[SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity](#) 1/2 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  
PLYMOUTH, Christ Church full time  
WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah full time  
WRENTHAM, Trinity Church part time****NEXT fyi:****fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the November issue is **Wednesday, Oct. 26 at noon.** E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).