



Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022

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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Actions of Diocesan Convention available online

Actions of the Diocesan Convention, held *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29* in Danvers, are available online. Find the bishop's annual address, resolutions in final form, election results and materials at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022.
FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

“Invite, Welcome, Connect”: Join for orientations this month

At Diocesan Convention, each congregation received a copy of the book *Invite, Welcome, Connect*. Recognizing that people are seeking spiritual community now more than ever, *Invite, Welcome, Connect* can be useful to inspire congregations to become places where the “visitor” is God’s beloved and long-awaited guest.

The Mission Strategy Committee invites at least one representative from each congregation to an orientation session to learn about the useful tools and resources found in the book and on the website www.invitewelcomeconnect.com. Register [here](#) for the online orientation sessions, to be offered on *Sunday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.* with the Rev. Phil LaBelle; *Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.* with the Rev. Chris Capaldo; and *Thursday, Nov. 17 at 10 a.m.* with the Very Rev. Amy McCreath.

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

Racial Justice Commission opens REDI Assessment to all

Spread the word and participate:
www.diomass.org/REDI-Assessment

The [Racial Justice Commission](#) has launched a Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) Assessment and invites all people in the diocese to take part. The online survey takes 30-35 minutes to complete, and is something that people across the diocese can do to move the diocesan community closer to becoming Beloved Community. **Please share word of this opportunity with members of your congregation or worshiping community.**

The REDI survey measures proxies for race-based discrimination, diversity, inclusion and equity in faith-based institutional settings. The results will help in gaining an understanding of the level of awareness and knowledge of racial equity culture and will help gauge perceptions of the environment for decision makers, staff and community members.

REDI survey results are 100 percent confidential and are reported only in the aggregate, in a continuum format, with suggested areas to develop based on a final REDI score. This assessment will be used as a baseline in 2022 and can be taken again in the future to measure progress toward race equity goals.

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Find the REDI Assessment link [here](#) to get started; information and the link are also at www.diomass.org/REDI-Assessment.
 FOR INFORMATION: Kris Wile, Racial Justice Commission Subcommittee on Accountable Structures and Practices (kwile@stcollab.com).

New priests to be ordained

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

- **The Rev. Adwoa Wilson** on *Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m.* at the [Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, Vt.](#);
- **The Rev. Isabel Geller** on *Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m.* at [St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford](#); and
- **The Rev. Dorothy Goehring** on *Thursday, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m.* at [St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain](#).

Please contact each hosting congregation directly about details.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **“Comfort ye, my people” Online Advent Retreat**, *Saturday, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*: This morning Zoom retreat will seek to create a space of prayer big enough to encompass both what disturbs and shakes us, and what brings comfort and hope. How do the images of Advent enlarge our capacity to midwife Christ's birth within us and among us? This gathering, led by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, creation care advisor to the diocese, will include presentations, silence, singing, solitude and small group conversation. The retreat is free and open to all, and is sponsored by both Episcopal dioceses in Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ.

Find event details and registration [here](#).

- **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. Newcomers are welcome at upcoming meetings, via Zoom, on *Wednesdays, Nov. 2, 16 and 30 at 7 p.m.* The group will be focusing on its plan for “An Episcopal Path to Creative Justice” that will provide structure and guidance to congregations seeking to respond to the climate emergency. E-mail CreationJusticeEpisMa@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

- **“Let Go, Come Together” Afternoon of Young Adult Community**: The Young Adult Advisory Committee and campus ministries in the diocese invite young Episcopalians ages 18-39 for an afternoon to spend time with old friends and make new ones, taking place on *Saturday, Nov. 5, 4-7 p.m.*, at Trinity Church in Boston.

There will be board games, heavy hors d'oeuvres, Evening Prayer and a special opt-in listening session with the Racial Justice Commission. Find details and registration [here](#).

- The diocesan Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries invites all to join online for a **Multicultural Celebration of All the Saints Who Struggled for Justice and Freedom**, to take place via Zoom on *Saturday, Nov. 12 at 5 p.m.* Register to receive the Zoom link [here](#). Names of saints for celebration may be sent to jbntagengwa@diomass.org.

Additionally, the Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, together with Bishop Gayle E. Harris, continues its series of **“Episcopal Church 101” sessions**, via Zoom, to which all are welcome. Upcoming sessions take place *6-8 p.m. on 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 or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

- **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 or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **12th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in Brockton:** Grace Chapel in Brockton, a mission congregation of the diocese, is celebrating its 12th anniversary and invites all in the diocesan community for a Service of Thanksgiving on *Sunday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m.* at the First Lutheran Evangelical Church (900 Main Street). A reception follows the service. RSVP to gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com.

- The Congregational Consultants will be hosting a **seminar on year-end accounting closing matters for congregations** in late November and early December. Terry Robinson, longtime consultant and parish auditor, will give the seminar twice, each time at *9 a.m.: Tuesday, Nov. 29* (register [here](#)) and *Saturday, Dec. 3* (register [here](#)).

Sessions are planned but not yet scheduled for January on preparation of the Parochial Report, which is due by March 1. Dates and times will be announced on the diocesan [Events calendar](#) and in the December issue of FYI.

Sessions on clergy compensation were held in October. A recording of that, or any other of the 12 previously recorded sessions, are available [here](#).

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

CHURCHWIDE:

- All are invited to join online for **Election Day Prayers** on *Tuesday, Nov. 8*, hosted by The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations. Tune in from 8 p.m. to midnight EST via the [Episcopal Public Policy Network Facebook page](#) or the [Episcopal Church Facebook page](#). Viewers do not need a Facebook profile to participate.

At the top of each hour, special guests from around the church will offer 10-15 minutes of reflection and prayer. Scheduled guests include Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris.

Additionally, the Office of Government Relations offers a [2022 Vote Faithfully Midterm Election Engagement Toolkit](#) and other resources for parishes interested in voter advocacy. Learn more [here](#).

- Join Episcopalians from across New England for a Zoom conversation on *Sunday, Nov. 13, 3-5 p.m.*, about **“The Future of Racial Reconciliation in Province I.”**

James McKim, Province I representative on the Episcopal Church Executive Council's Committee on Antiracism and Reconciliation, will facilitate this conversation between deputies to the 80th General Convention and recently retired Connecticut Bishop Ian Douglas, a co-chair of the 80th General Convention Committee on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. The discussion will center on the priorities and work of this past summer's General Convention regarding racial justice and reconciliation.

Interested Episcopalians from all seven dioceses in New England are invited to connect and collaborate. Register [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Will Harron, Province I Coordinator (coordinator@province1.org).

- The Episcopal Church's [United Thank Offering](#) (UTO) emphasizes an intentional practice of gratitude **throughout November**, not just on Thanksgiving Day, and has created a variety of resources to help people of all ages **explore personal practice of gratitude**. Find them at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/november>.

- In preparation for **Advent and Christmas, Episcopal Church resources** are gathered online at www.episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources.

Also for the season: The brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge are providing a series of **recorded sermons** this Advent. The free sermon resource can be used by congregations where a preacher may not be available. The videos can also be used as an adult forum resource. Register at www.ssj.org/preachingmonks to receive sermons and reflection questions.

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 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.

- **Compliance guidelines:** To be eligible for grants or loans administered by the Diocese of Massachusetts, congregations must be in compliance with basic reporting requirements. **Please review them and check on your congregation's compliance prior to submitting an application:**

- Parochial Report (2022 report due March 1, 2023; if grant is awarded prior to March 1, the 2021 report suffices)
- Annual audit in process (2022 audit due Sept. 1, 2023; if award is prior to Sept. 1, the 2021 audit suffices)
- Annual Leadership Report including Safe Church Audit (2023 report due March 1, 2023; if award is prior to March 1, the 2022 report suffices)
- Annual Clergy Compensation Form needs to be updated and submitted to Clergy Pension Group
- Current on payments (<90 days in arrears) of annual assessment, diocesan loans, clergy pension and health premiums
- Diocesan grants that have a matching component may not include funds from other diocesan grants or the value of in-kind donations as part of their match. Matching grants must be matched by actual cash.

Funds will not be issued until compliance requirements have been satisfied; congregations not in compliance will be notified and have 60 days to address requirements before the award is withdrawn.

Help is available. Contact your [regional canon](#) for assistance from a Congregational Consultant. Find a brochure summarizing all diocesan grant and loan programs [here](#).

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Oct. 20 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the treasurer.

Heard an overview from the secretary about Diocesan Convention.

Voted (12 in favor, 7 opposed and 2 abstentions) that the Diocesan Council endorse the resolution coming before Diocesan Convention creating a reparations fund.

Received the 2023 meeting schedule.

Thanked all outgoing members for their time on Diocesan Council: The Rev. Dan Bell (Alewife Deanery), The Rev. Patrick Ward (Boston Harbor Deanery), The Rev. Hilary Greene (Cape and Islands Deanery), David Sullivan (Mystic Valley Deanery), The Rev. Melanie McCarley (Neponset River Deanery) and The Rev. Maggie Arnold (South Shore Deanery).

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 1, 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. Lucia Ballentine began as bridge priest at St. Andrew's Church in Methuen on Oct. 18.

The Rev. Melissa Howell is serving as bridge priest at Grace Church in New Bedford.

The Rev. Sarah Mato is serving as bridge priest at the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham.

The Rev. Tim Schenck has concluded his ministry as rector of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham and has been called as rector of the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Fla., beginning Nov. 20.

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

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

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.

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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

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

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**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church full time

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.*

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Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

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

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church
 HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist
 MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church
 NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church
 PLYMOUTH, Christ Church
 SANDWICH, St. John's Church
 WRENTHAM, Trinity 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*

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

[BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church](#) *1/2 time*
[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) *1/2 time*
[HOLBROOK, St. John'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*
 HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist *full time*
 NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church *full time*
 PLYMOUTH, Christ Church *full time*
 WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah *full time*

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the December issue is **Wednesday, Nov. 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.