



Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023

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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Presiding Bishop Curry to help celebrate Old North Church's 300th

Sunday, April 16:

11 a.m. Choral Eucharist &
6 p.m. ticketed Lantern Service

Saturday, April 15:

9-11 a.m.: PB & Diocesan Youth
2-4 p.m.: PB & Young Adults

Old North Church, together with the Diocese of Massachusetts, will welcome Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry to Boston to commemorate the church's 300th anniversary with two celebratory events on **Sunday, April 16**: Curry will be the preacher at an 11 a.m. **Festival Choral Eucharist**; all are invited to join the Old North congregation for this service, which will also be livestreamed for a virtual audience. Then at 6 p.m., Curry will be the honored guest speaker at a ticketed **Lantern Service** that promises to be a stirring and inspirational evening of song and rededication, culminating in the lighting of Old North's steeple lanterns as it commits anew to be a shining beacon of light, justice and love to the city and nation. Guests will enjoy light refreshments following the evening program.

While in Boston for the Old North celebration, Curry also will be participating in two free events on **Saturday, April 15**, one open to all **diocesan youth** (under 18) and their adult mentors, from 9 to 11 a.m. at St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury; and another for **young adults** in the diocese (over 18), from 2 to 4 p.m. (location TBD).

All are invited to save these dates and watch for more details.

Congregations invited to mark Bishop Barbara Harris's consecration date

Feb. 11 is the anniversary of the historic 1989 consecration in the Diocese of Massachusetts of the late Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. General Convention adopted resolution [C023](#) to include observance of Harris's consecration date in Lesser Feasts and Fasts, with materials to be prepared for future General Convention consideration toward full Church Calendar commemoration of her life, work and witness.

Congregations are encouraged this year to mark Harris's consecration on *Saturday, Feb. 11* or *Sunday, Feb. 12*. A collection of resources prepared in 2021 for the 32nd anniversary of her consecration is still available for use [here](#).

Ministry Discernment Conference rescheduled to Feb. 11

The 2023 Ministry Discernment Conference, previously slated for Feb. 4, has been rescheduled to *Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m. to noon*, to allow members of the diocesan community to attend the [funeral](#) of Christine Ntagengwa, wife of the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries.

Those who were already registered online have been contacted about updating or canceling their registration. Online registration, [here](#), remains open until Feb. 9.

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

Worship, retreat & resource offerings for the diocesan community this Lent

Episcopal Church resources for Lent: Find them collected online at www.episcopalchurch.org/lent-resources.

- **Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul:** The [Cathedral Church of St. Paul](#) in Boston will offer two services on *Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22*, and all are welcome. The *noon* service will be a bilingual Spanish/English Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, with the Rev. Paul Shoaf Kozak presiding. The *6 p.m.* service will be Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, with Bishop Alan M. Gates preaching and Dean Amy E. McCreath presiding.
 - **“A Woman’s Testimony”:** The Lenten preaching series at the [Cathedral Church of St. Paul](#) in Boston, on *Tuesdays in Lent at 5:15 p.m.*—in person and livestreamed—begins *Feb. 28*. This year, which marks the 100th anniversary of the first sermon by a woman at the cathedral church, five female-identifying preachers will open up the story of the Samaritan woman’s encounter with Jesus in John 4. These services of lamp-lighting with Taize chant will be followed by refreshments and conversation with the preacher. Find the full schedule [here](#).
 - The **study series “What is Truth?”** commissioned by the Racial Justice Commission’s Subcommittee on Reparations as part of its [Reparations Toolkit](#) is still available for use, this Lent or later in the year. The six-session series for individuals, small groups, congregations, ministry teams and other communities offers “an opportunity for a communal and embodied experience, encouraging participants to go past thinking about the concept of truth to really experiencing the practice of truth-telling.” Read more [here](#).
 - From the emerging St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer, two offerings for the Lent and Easter seasons, with more information to be provided at www.stpaulboston.org/tspc:
 - **“Meeting God in our Busy Lives: Living Into the Theology and Practice of Zimzum”:** Join with the Rev. Phil LaBelle on a journey exploring this Jewish mystical concept. Two groups will be offered, each meeting six times, every other week: in-person at St. Mark’s Church in Southborough beginning March 1, and on Zoom beginning March 2. Registration is required and space limited.
 - **“Learning to Pray: Exploring the Gift and Practice of Prayer”:** A series of short videos exploring basic themes and forms of prayer, along with a conversation guide, will be available. This resource can be used with a Lenten small group or discipleship group to help participants embrace a deeper, meaningful practice of prayer.
 - **“Healing Judgment” online Lenten retreat, Saturday, March 18, 9:30 a.m.-noon:** This free online retreat is open to all and aims to create a space in which to grow in self-awareness, self-acceptance and compassion for self, one another and our wounded, magnificent world. The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, creation care advisor to the diocese, will lead this retreat, co-sponsored by the Episcopal dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. Find more details and registration [here](#).
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Leadership Report process underway for 2023

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 within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons and no later than *Wednesday, March 1*.

The information provided through this process is critical to ensure that important diocesan information reaches congregations' current leaders in the upcoming year. Find links [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

Diocesan Convention dates announced

The 238th annual Diocesan Convention is scheduled for *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28*, again this year at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Boston North Shore in Danvers. Questions may be e-mailed to convention@diomass.org.

March 1 is Parochial Report filing deadline

The filing site for the 2022 Parochial Report is open. 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. If log-in assistance is needed, contact diocesan staff member Nathaniel Fasman, Human Resources Administrator (nfasman@diomass.org).

Feb. 4 Zoom seminar and recordings to assist with Parochial Report preparation

With the deadline for submission of the **annual Parochial Report** on March 1, the Congregational Consultants have been leading Zoom **seminars on its preparation**. The final session focused on the **financial section** of the Parochial Report will be led by Terry Robinson, longtime Congregational Consultant and parish auditor, on *Saturday, Feb. 4 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)).

A separate session was held in January on the non-financial section. Click [here](#) to view a recording, along with recordings of the dozen or so seminars given to date. Other topics of seasonal interest include annual meetings and vestry roles and responsibilities.
FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator (chris@centrestent.com).

Hearing Panel documents available on diocesan website

Title IV.13.3 of the [Canons of The Episcopal Church](#) stipulates that when a clergy disciplinary matter comes before a Hearing Panel, the Hearing Panel is required to make known the documents filed with or issued by it. Documents regarding a clergy disciplinary matter that is currently before a Hearing Panel in the Diocese of Massachusetts are and will continue to be posted on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/hearing-panel-docs as they are filed with or created by the Hearing Panel.

For more information about the clergy disciplinary process, visit www.diomass.org/resources/clergy-disciplinary-process and www.titleiv.org.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- The schedule of **bishops' visitations for 2023** has been updated to include visitations by both Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Carol J. Gallagher. The schedule is available on the diocesan website at www.diomass.org/resources/visitations.

- Sign up [here](#) to get connected with the **Creation Care Justice Network** of Episcopalians across Massachusetts. Newcomers are welcome at upcoming meetings, via Zoom, on *Wednesdays, Feb. 1 and 15 at 7 p.m.* E-mail CreationJusticeEpisMa@gmail.com for the Zoom link. The group is continuing its work to develop "An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice," a program to help congregations respond to climate emergency.

- **EYE23: Get your youth ready and get set to go:** The Episcopal Youth Event (EYE), the triennial gathering of youth ages 15-19 from around the world—and The Episcopal Church's second largest gathering—is back on this year: *July 4-8* at the University of Maryland, College Park. All interested youth, and youth mentors who want to chaperone the Diocese of Massachusetts delegation, are invited.

March 7 is the deadline to apply to join the diocesan delegation, so youth leaders are encouraged to spread the word now and begin recruiting young people in their congregations and communities. A **virtual information session** to discuss EYE details will be offered on *Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.* Contact the Rev. Yolanda Rolle, Missioner for Youth and Young Adults, at yrolle@diomass.org for the info session link or with any questions or interests. To preview some of the excitement awaiting those who go, visit the EYE website: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye>.

- To promote readiness for antiracism work, the Racial Justice Commission's Systems and Structures Subcommittee invites all leaders and interested people in the diocese to take part in a six-part **Zoom workshop series, "Race, Church, and Healing,"** with consultant Bryana Clover. The series begins *Tuesday, Feb. 28* (schedule [here](#)), with sessions to be recorded for those with schedule conflicts. Interspersed between the communal workshops are affinity groups—one for BIPOC participants and one for white participants—to allow for continuing conversation and processing. Find more workshop information [here](#), and registration [here](#).

In addition, the Systems and Structures Subcommittee again **invites all people of the diocese to take the REDI assessment on racial equity, diversity and inclusion.** This 100 percent confidential online survey is something each person can do to help the diocesan community move closer to Beloved Community.

REDI survey results will help in gaining an understanding of the level of awareness and knowledge of racial equity culture and will help in gauging perceptions of the environments for leaders, staff and congregation community members. Get started [here](#). A flier for congregations to print and post, or use in congregational e-mails, is available [here](#).

- **Clergy Professional Development Days in 2023** are offered in two parts, with each part held four times between March and September.

Part I is a workshop led by The Samaritans of Boston. The focus will be on learning about suicide prevention; how to help those who have lost a loved one to suicide; and reducing the stigma associated with suicide. All clergy are encouraged to attend the workshop. It will be offered on:

- *Tuesday, March 7, 9 a.m.-noon* at St. John the Evangelist Church in Duxbury;
- *Thursday, April 20, 5:30-8 p.m.* via Zoom;
- *Thursday, May 18, 9 a.m.-noon* at St. Andrew's Church in Marblehead; and
- *Friday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-noon* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

Part II is a Safe Church Review segment which, along with attendance at a Part I workshop, fulfills the refresher requirement for clergy. Clergy who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org. Part II, the Safe Church Review, will be offered on:

- *Tuesday, March 7, 1-3 p.m.* at St. John the Evangelist Church in Duxbury;
- *Wednesday, April 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.* via Zoom;
- *Thursday, May 18, 1-3 p.m.* at St. Andrew's Church in Marblehead; and
- *Friday, Sept. 9, 1-3 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

Find registration for all sessions [here](#).

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

- All clergy of the diocese are invited to save the date for the annual **Clergy Conference** which will take place at the Devens Common Center in Devens, Mass., on *Monday, May 1 and Tuesday, May 2*. More information will be announced soon.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **“Preaching Excellence” online conference for Province I deacons, March 3-5:** This online conference's central focus will be the unique voice of the deacon as a reflection of the diaconate's mission to represent the church to the community, and the world to the church. In addition to preaching to peer feedback in small, moderated preaching groups, participants will hear from guest [faculty members](#). Additionally, a panel will discuss how preachers are responding to the new challenge of preaching in the digital age and leveraging the power of social media to expand the reach of their ministries. Find the schedule [here](#) and registration [here](#).

- Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry invites generous giving to the **Absalom Jones Fund** in support of the work of two historically Black institutions of higher education in cultivating and preparing diverse leaders: Voorhees University and Saint Augustine's University. Many congregations take dedicated offerings around *Feb. 13* in observance of the Feast Day of Absalom Jones, the first Black priest ordained by the church. Jones recognized education as a key to empowerment.

"We have worked throughout The Episcopal Church to honor that legacy with worship services and gatherings of Episcopalians and friends," the presiding bishop said in a churchwide release. "In the last few years, we've created the Absalom Jones Fund as a way of supporting the two remaining Episcopal historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)." Learn more [here](#).

- [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) (EMM) has announced **The Rainbow Initiative**, a 2023 project focused on working with Episcopal congregations to bring visibility and aid to LGBTQ+ forced migrants. Participation is also encouraged in an **online survey**.

"This initiative is a direct response to General Convention Resolution [D045](#) 'On Supporting LGBTIQ+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers,'" said Sarah Shipman, the operations director for EMM, in a press release. "While EMM has been engaged in this work on the local affiliate level, we see this as an opportunity to further engage the wider church on the plight of LGBTQ+ forced migrants and the ways we can work together to provide education and support."

Everyone connected in some way to The Episcopal Church is invited and encouraged to participate in the launch survey, an opportunity to share their experience, ideas, resources and interest related to LGBTQ+ forced migration in the context of The Episcopal Church. The online survey, [here](#), will be open until Feb. 20.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- An **updated document for 2023 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 Congregational Development Grants in 2022 are asked to complete by March 1 a **grant report form**, [here](#). Grant recipient congregations become eligible for further Congregational Development Grant funds upon submitting this report.

Recipients of a **2022 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: Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Jan. 15 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an overview of the Mission Initiatives Funded Program.

Heard an update about the formation of the Assessment Formula Review working group.

Voted to approve the 2024 assessment formula and to approve adjustment of the standing motion regarding late assessments.

Voted to expand the scope of the D7004 endowment fund.

Voted to approve 2022 assessment adjustments for Old North Church in Boston, St. Paul's Church in Dedham, the Church of the Advent in Medfield, St. Luke's Church in Scituate, Trinity Church in Stoughton and Christ Church in Swansea.

Voted to approve 2023 assessment adjustments for Old North Church in Boston, the Church of the Advent in Medfield, St. Paul's Church in North Andover, Bristol Trinity Church in North Easton, St. John's Church in Sandwich and Christ Church in Swansea.

Voted to approve the following Diocesan Council members to the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council: Michael Bent, Helen Gordon, Cris Latorre, David Milam and Joyce Scherer-Hoock.

Voted to endorse the appointment of Rowan Larson and Joseph Mumita to the Budget Committee and confirmed the reappointment of Peter Hughes, Lori Mills-Curran and Lynn Smith.

Voted to endorse the appointment of Stephen Voysey as the assistant treasurer of the diocese.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Please direct all inquiries to the [regional canons](#), who produce this report.

Central Region

Alewife & Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Martha Hubbard mhubbard@diomass.org

Boston Harbor & Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell koconnell@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Lucia Ballantine finished as bridge priest at St. Andrew's Church in Ayer on Jan. 15. **The Rev. Stephanie Bradbury** began as interim priest there on Jan. 17.

The Rev. Dr. Regina Walton completes her ministry as rector of Grace Church in Newton on Feb. 28. **The Rev. Isaac Martinez** will begin as bridge priest there on Jan. 28.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BOSTON, Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin
 BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church
 DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church
 MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent
 NEWTON, Grace Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church
 BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church

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*Continued from page 7***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer

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.*

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:**

HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church

LOWELL, St. John's Church

NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church

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

AYER, St. Andrew's Church

FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew'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.)*[BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church](#)[GROVELAND, St. James's Church](#) *(Short list search: Contact regional canon if interested) 1/2 time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

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

LOWELL, St. Anne's Church 1/2 time

MALDEN, St. Paul's Church 1/4 time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church 1/2 time

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Southern RegionRegional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist
MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church
NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church
FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church
PLYMOUTH, Christ Church
SANDWICH, St. John's Church
WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah
WRENTHAM, Trinity Church**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*[PROVINCETOWN, Church of St. Mary of the Harbor](#) *full 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 and WRENTHAM, Trinity
Church *full-time collaboration*HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist *full time*NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church *full time*PLYMOUTH, Christ Church *full time****NEXT fyi:****fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the March issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 22 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.