



**Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023**

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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## **Creation Season observed through Oct. 4**

Updated "Celebration Guide"  
available online

*Creation Season 2023: Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes* is now available for those who integrate Creation Season into Sunday worship (Sept. 1-Oct. 4). Curated by the Creation Care Leadership Circle of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, the original 128-page PDF was made available last August in the dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts. This year, 16 diocesan bishops representing 17 dioceses have authorized use of an updated edition of this resource for Creation Season 2023.

The updated resource now includes Year A lectionary texts. For each Sunday the resource supplies a unique collect, draws attention to creation care elements in the lectionary readings for both Track 1 and Track 2 and refers to supplementary texts that may be used in place of the second lesson. It also offers ideas for the sermon. Subsequent sections contain litanies, confessions, intercessions, a creation-based assessment of all nine authorized Eucharistic Prayers and a "Eucharistic Prayer for Creation."

The updated guide is available at <https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/>.

One more congregation sought  
for "Episcopal Path to Creation  
Justice" pilot program

Interested in participating in the pilot program for the newly created "An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice" this fall? There is one remaining spot for a congregation that wants to participate (October 2023 through April 2024). Pilot congregations will receive individualized coaching, access to extensive resource materials and networking with a cohort of other Massachusetts congregations. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Rachel Field, project coordinator ([rachelf2000@gmail.com](mailto:rachelf2000@gmail.com)).*

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## **RIP Bishop Bud Cederholm: Community to gather Sept. 8**

The funeral service for Bishop Bud Cederholm will be held on *Friday, Sept. 8 at 11 a.m.* at Christ Church in Needham. Clergy are invited to vest (white stole). Christ Church will livestream the service; see <https://ccneedham.org>. Find more details [here](#).

Memorial donations to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Green Grants and Loan Funds may be made via [www.diomass.org/give-now](http://www.diomass.org/give-now) or by check to Episcopal Diocese of MA Green Grants and Loan Funds, 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111.

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## **Diocesan Convention registration is open**

Online registration is open for Diocesan Convention, to take place *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28* 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, "In Christ, Called to Collaborate." Early registration is en-

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couraged. **Registration, hotel reservation and exhibit information, along with other details**, can be found at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023).

An open comment period to collect feedback on proposed resolutions runs *Sept. 8-13*, with a Zoom **discussion on resolutions** scheduled for *Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.* [Register here](#). (An [online feedback form](#) will also be available during the comment period.)

**Pre-Convention Forums** will be held via Zoom on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.*: Central Region
- *Thursday, Oct. 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m.*: Northern and Western Region
- *Friday, Oct. 6, 2:00-3:30 p.m.*: Any Region
- *Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.*: Southern Region

**Clergy desiring to vote at Diocesan Convention** must be canonically resident two weeks prior to its start; contact Laura Simons at [lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org) to complete this process by *Friday, Oct. 13*.

**Delegate changes** should be reported to the Convention Office via the substitute delegate form found [here](#). Forms will be accepted in the Convention Office until *Friday, Oct. 20*. After that date, contact the Convention Office at [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org) to ensure the change is processed.

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### ***Bishop search timeline and Nominating Committee have been announced***

As an update on the bishop search and election process, the diocesan Standing Committee announced on Aug. 16 the names of those who will serve on the Nominating Committee, and made available an initial timeline. The timeline includes *May 18, 2024*, as the election date and *Oct. 19, 2024*, as the date for the ordination and consecration of the new bishop. Find the full announcement [here](#).

The Nominating Committee will shepherd the diocese through the initial phase of the bishop election process by conducting listening sessions and surveys, creating a diocesan profile, soliciting and vetting applications and finally presenting a slate of candidates to the Standing Committee. A Transition Committee will then steer the next phase of the election process. Visit [www.diomass.org/bishop-search](http://www.diomass.org/bishop-search) for information and updates. The Standing Committee welcomes e-mail inquiries at [diomasssearchcom@gmail.com](mailto:diomasssearchcom@gmail.com).

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### ***New regional canon for Central Region named***

The Rev. Gregory G. Perez has been named regional canon for the Central Region of the Diocese of Massachusetts, which comprises the 60 congregations and other church-related institutions in the Boston Harbor, Alewife, Charles River and Neponset River deaneries. His official start date will be Oct. 1.

For the past three years Perez has been the priest-in-charge of St. Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn.

"Gregory Perez is a deeply experienced priest with a gift for organization and a keen pastoral sensibility," Bishop Alan M. Gates said. "In our diocese, his work with the Racial Justice Commission and with the Mission Strategy Committee's project on clergy mental health have been but two of the ways he has shown how effective he will be in the role of regional canon." Read more [here](#).

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## **NEWS & EVENT NOTES:**

- **Official portrait photos of Assistant Bishop Carol J. Gallagher** have been taken, and 8" x 10" prints of her vested in cope and mitre will be mailed to congregations as soon as they are available. Prints of her vested in rochet and chimere will be available upon request. Those requests, as well as questions, may be e-mailed to her executive assistant, David Ames, at [dames@diomass.org](mailto:dames@diomass.org).

- **Renovations will soon be underway at 138 Tremont Street** in Boston to allow for the consolidation of diocesan staff to the fourth and fifth floors of the office buildings, where the recently installed new HVAC system will enable more comfortable use of areas that, until now, did not receive adequate cooling and heating. The renovation schedule is still pending, but it will be helpful to be aware of some potential disruption and temporary relocations over the next several months. Locating new space for the diocesan archives outside of central Boston is also in the works, further reducing the diocesan footprint at the 138 Tremont Street office buildings owned by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

- **“Thank you for your support!”:** The Bishops’ Annual Appeal provides financial support for the diocese’s diverse shared ministries and initiatives, ranging from lifelong Christian formation, to youth and young adult ministries, to racial justice and creation care initiatives, to multicultural and immigration outreach. Results of the [2022-2023 Bishops’ Annual Appeal](#):

- Total Raised: \$164,867
- Total 2023 donors: 625
- Average Gift: \$264

(The 2021-2022 appeal raised a total of \$86,403 from 298 total donors, with an average gift of \$290).

The Office of Development has also announced that \$52,757 has been raised to date for the Bishop Gayle E. Harris Fund for Leadership Development for Women of Color.

- **A “Stewardship Best Practices” Zoom drop-in session** will be hosted by the diocesan Office of Development on *Monday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.* If you’re a seasoned stewardship leader or just starting out in your first campaign, come learn some best practices, share your stories for success and prepare for a great fall campaign. Register for the Zoom link [here](#) or e-mail [braiche@diomass.org](mailto:braiche@diomass.org) for the meeting ID and password.

**Stewardship pledge campaign resources from TENS** (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) are available at no cost to congregations through the diocesan TENS membership. This year’s theme is “Rooted in Abundance.” Materials are available, in English and Spanish, via [www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/rooted-in-abundance-2023](http://www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/rooted-in-abundance-2023). The password is: Jeremiah 17:8  
*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant* ([braiche@diomass.org](mailto:braiche@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

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- **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered via Zoom on two consecutive weeknights (you must attend both): *Tuesday, Sept. 19 and Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.* Register [here](#).

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

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

- **Sept. 19 Clergy Wellness Listening Session:** The Mission Strategy Committee is grateful to everyone who completed the Clergy Wellness Survey last fall. While the survey was a great starting point, not all voices were well represented, in particular the voices of BIPOC clergy. Conversations will be scheduled this fall to gather a wider perspective from the diocese's diverse clergy community before finalizing recommendations. A summary of the results already received can be found [here](#).

The Rev. Dan Bell, the Rev. Greg Perez and diocesan consultant Kristin Hendler will be hosting a listening session on Zoom for active clergy to reflect on the results, offer additional input and consider next steps. The session will be held on *Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4-5 p.m.* Register [here](#).

Those who cannot make this session and would like to provide feedback on the results, or share any questions or concerns, may e-mail the Rev. Dan Bell at [stmarksburlingtonpriest@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksburlingtonpriest@gmail.com).

- All diocesan clergy are invited to gather for the **annual Clergy Day**, this year at [The Link in Kendall Square, Cambridge](#) on *Tuesday, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*: "Religious AND Spiritual: Fostering Spiritual Congregations and Communities," featuring the Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish, a Presbyterian minister, therapist and teacher who is passionate about the health and care of clergy and congregations. Standish will share his experience of growing a church by focusing on experiential spirituality and discernment. Find details and registration [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Networking and Events ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).*

- The second annual **Indigenous Peoples' Day Gathering** sponsored by the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network, the Beloved Community Commission of Western Massachusetts and the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries of Massachusetts, will take place on *Monday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.* at All Saints Church in Worcester. The day will include a focus on sacred listening and responding, with lunchtime conversations and a worship service. In addition, a formation opportunity for children and opportunities for advocacy will be featured. All are welcome. [Register here](#).

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

- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network's book discussion series begins** on *Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7-8:15 p.m.* on Zoom, with discussion of [The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relationships](#) by Shirley N. Hager and Mawopiyané. Register [here](#).

Additional book studies are planned on *Nov. 8 (This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving* by David J. Silverman); *Jan. 10, 2024 (Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War* by Lisa Brooks) and *March 13, 2024 (Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe* by David Maraniss).

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

- **Join Episcopal City Mission (ECM) for its Annual Meeting**, which will take place on *Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. All canonically resident clergy and two lay persons from every parish will be able to vote; everyone else in attendance will be granted seat and voice to participate in the meeting.

Register online [here](#) if planning to participate, to receive updates and other critical information ahead of the meeting. ECM will also have a watch party/remote options, so be sure to register if you hope to participate and are not certain you can be there in person. Questions may be directed to Derek Wong at [admin@ecmteam.us](mailto:admin@ecmteam.us).

- The steering team for the Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is hosting a meeting on *Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-noon*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. The goal is to **connect Episcopal justice groups in the Diocese of Massachusetts**, creating a path to work together to promote divine justice for all. Anyone who is part of a committee, commission, group, network or congregation working in the area of interlocking injustices (poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy, systemic racism, religious nationalism) is welcome to be part of the conversation. Contact Amelia Slawsby at [mappcen@gmail.com](mailto:mappcen@gmail.com) to join.

- The Rev. Dr. Hee Ann Choi, Clinical Associate Professor of Practical Theology at BU's School of Theology, will be presenting "**Can You See Me?: Challenges of Asian Americans/Immigrants as the Third Other.**" This talk will take place on *Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. All are welcome to this special event, hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander Americans of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Ticket price and availability will be available in the coming weeks; any questions may be directed to the Rev. Chitral de Mel at [cdemell1771@aol.com](mailto:cdemell1771@aol.com) or Grace Knowles at [booker04@msn.com](mailto:booker04@msn.com).



- On *Saturday, Nov. 4*, the **St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer** is hosting **Dr. Rowan Williams**, former archbishop of Canterbury and prominent theologian, whose subject will be “The Learning Church: Theology and Christian Maturity.” The event will be hosted at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston *from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*, with Williams speaking at 10 a.m. and available for questions and discussion until noon. He will join the event virtually from his home in Wales.

The full day at the cathedral will be a time to grow in community, learn with Williams and one another and be resourced for the task of forming disciples in congregations. The day will also include Eucharist, lunch and an afternoon workshop on “Becoming the Learning Church Locally,” during which participants will have the opportunity to develop avenues to faithfully live together in congregations as people who seek to know and love God and neighbor through maturity and discipleship.

Those unable to attend in person can attend Williams’s talk and Q&A online (the afternoon events are in-person only). Find details and registration at [www.stpaulboston.org/rowanwilliams](http://www.stpaulboston.org/rowanwilliams).

In preparation, there will be an online discussion of Williams’s book *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief* on *Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.* Register [here](#) for the Oct. 18 book study. *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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## CHURCHWIDE:

- Episcopal institutions are invited to apply for **churchwide evangelism grants** to support local and regional efforts to grow Episcopal ministries, resources and gatherings. The application deadline is *Oct. 13*. The grant application, criteria, requirements, budget information and more are available online [here](#) in English, Spanish and French.

The grants committee will consider proposals for up to \$2,000 for individual faith communities and up to \$8,000 for multichurch, diocesan, provincial and other regional collaborations. A total of \$125,000 is available for this funding cycle. The 2023 grant focus is on evangelism initiatives that minister across barriers.

The Episcopal Evangelism grants program began in 2017 in response to the 2015 General Convention’s increased investment in evangelism. The program is coordinated by the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Mission Within The Episcopal Church in collaboration with evangelism staff.

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## GRANTS & LOANS:

- The application and program information for **2024 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are now available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 20, 2023*, for sabbaticals in 2024; award decisions will be announced by *Nov. 17, 2023*.

*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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● **Global Partnership Grants** are now available. Two types of grants are available to churches, schools and organizations affiliated with the Diocese of Massachusetts:

- **Companion Relationship Grants** help launch or sustain relationships between people of this diocese and partners around the world. Grants are limited to one grant per year for a maximum of five years, with a maximum grant of \$12,000 in the launch year and \$6,000 in succeeding years.

- **Sustainable Development Grants** are designed to strengthen existing relationships where a particular development opportunity aligns with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Grants are limited to one grant per year of up to \$25,000, with a maximum of three grants per project, or a maximum total grant of \$75,000.

Both grants require matching funds from the Diocese of Massachusetts partner, with the amount defined by the partner's budget size. Find guidelines and application links for each of these programs [here](#).

Questions about which grant is more suitable to further your partnership may be directed to Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403) or the Rev. Canon Bill Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary, ([bparnell@diomass.org](mailto:bparnell@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 205). Questions related to submission of a grant application may be directed to the Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants ([mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

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## ***DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:***

At its Aug. 10 meeting, Diocesan Council:

Voted to approve the Mission Initiatives Committee recommendations for the 2023 funding allocations to new mission initiatives as submitted.

Heard a report from the Budget Committee about 2024 budget planning.

Voted to approve a 2023 diocesan staff housing allowance.

Voted to move into Executive Session to discuss financial topics.

**Next Council Meeting:** *Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Trinity Church in Concord.*

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

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## CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Please direct inquiries about this report to the [regional canons](#).

### CLERGY CHANGES:

- The Rev. Brock Baker** completed his ministry as bridge priest at St. John's Church in Lowell on Aug. 31 and begins as bridge priest at All Saints Parish of the North Shore in Danvers on Sept. 24.
- The Rev. Kate Bast** completed her time as interim priest-in-charge of St. Michael's Church in Holliston on Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Jennifer Beal** as of Aug. 1 is the rector of St. Anne's Church in North Billerica, where she has been serving as priest-in-charge.
- The Rev. Bill Bradbury** began as bridge priest at St. Anne's Church and St. John's Church in Lowell on Sept. 3.
- The Rev. Sarah Conner** will begin serving as interim priest at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading on Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Lisa Faber Ginggen** began serving as rector of St. James's Church in Groveland on Sept. 5.
- The Rev. Lauren Lukason** begins as priest-in-charge of St. Mark's Church in Foxborough and Trinity Church in Wrentham on Sept. 10.
- The Rev. Brian McGurk** retired as rector of St. Christopher's Church in Chatham on Aug. 27.
- The Rev. Tammy Miracky-Hobbs** completes her ministry as curate at All Saints Parish in Brookline on Sept. 30 and begins as priest-in-charge of Grace Church in Newton on Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Michael Thompson** began his ministry as deacon-in-charge at St. John's Church in Newtonville on Sept. 5.

### Central Region

Alewife & Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Martha Hubbard [mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)

Boston Harbor & Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell [koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)

### CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul  
NORWOOD, Grace Church

### RECTOR SEARCHES

#### CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church  
BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church  
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian'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:

LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer

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

DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church 3/4 time

MEDWAY, Christ Church 1/4 time

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

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

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**Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Martha Hubbard  
[mhubbard@diomass.org](mailto:mhubbard@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore  
LOWELL, St. Anne's Church  
LOWELL, St. John's Church  
READING, Church of the Good Shepherd  
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church  
WOBURN, Trinity Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**AYER, St. Andrew's Church  
FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church  
HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church  
HUDSON, St. Luke's Church  
SHIRLEY, Trinity Chapel  
WESTFORD, St. Mark'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:**

Groveland, St. James's Church

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.  
WESTON, St. Peter's Church full-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.  
None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**CONCORD, Trinity Church: [Assistant Rector](#)**Southern Region**Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

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

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time[HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church](#) 1/2 time[HOLBROOK, St. John's Church](#) 1/2 time[PLYMOUTH, Christ Church](#) full time[SANDWICH, St. John's Church](#) full time[WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah](#) full time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:** *None at this time.*

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

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church *1/4 time*

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church *1/8 time*

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church *full time*

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

*None at this time.*

**Clergy Supply List:** To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at [jcollen@diomass.org](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org).

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***NEXT fyi:***

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the October issue is **Wednesday, Sept. 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

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