



Wednesday, Nov. 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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Diocesan Convention actions and follow-up available online

Actions of the Diocesan Convention, held *Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28* 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-2023.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

Standing Committee invites applications for Transition Committee by Nov. 15

The diocesan Standing Committee issued on Oct. 31 the invitation for applications from those interested in being considered for appointment to the Transition Committee. Applications, via an online form available [here](#), are due by *Wednesday, Nov. 15*. Questions should be directed to diomasstransitions@gmail.com.

In an Oct. 25 update on the bishop search process, the Standing Committee announced leadership for the Transition Committee and Consecration Committee. Serving as co-chairs of the Transition Committee are Betsy Ridge of the Church of the Advent in Boston, the Rev. Elizabeth Grundy of St. Peter's Church in Osterville and the Rev. Brett Johnson of Emmanuel Church in Wakefield. Serving as chair of the Consecration Committee is the Rev. Michael Dangelo of the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill. Find the full announcement [here](#).

The Nominating Committee's online survey, open to all in the diocese, closes end-of-day on Nov. 1. Find it in English and Spanish [here](#).

Visit www.diomass.org/bishop-search for information and updates as they become available.

Nominating Committee survey, open to all, closes end of day Nov. 1

Prayers and presence invited for upcoming priest ordinations

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

- **The Rev. Kevin Vetiack** on *Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.*, at the [Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston](#);
- **The Rev. Lisa Faber Ginggen** on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.*, at [St. James's Church in Groveland](#);
- **The Rev. Paul Keene** on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.*, at [Christ Church in Short Hills, N.J.](#);
- **The Rev. Michael Thompson** on *Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m.*, at [St. John's Church in Newtonville](#); and
- **The Rev. Keith Nelson, SSJE** on *Tuesday, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.*, at the [Society of St. John the Evangelist Monastery in Cambridge](#).

Please contact the hosting congregation or community directly about service details and use the website links above for livestream information.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- The **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for 2023-2024** is now available at www.diomass.org/prayer-cycles.
FOR INFORMATION: Brad Rothrock, Administrator, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (brothrock@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).
- **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. The password is: Jeremiah 17:8
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).
- The Rev. Dr. Hee An 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. Register [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Chitral de Mel (cdemel1771@aol.com) or Grace Knowles (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.
- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network's book discussion series continues** on Zoom on *Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7-8:30 p.m.*, with a discussion of [This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony and the Troubled History of](#)

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[Thanksgiving](#) by David J. Silverman. Register to participate [here](#).

Upcoming sessions are scheduled for *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). All are welcome to participate.

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

- A **Planned Giving Webinar**, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Development and the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), on *Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.*, will focus on using ECF's Planned Giving on Demand toolkit to set up a planned giving program for your congregation. James W. (Jim) Murphy from the Episcopal Church Foundation will aim to demystify planned giving and explain how it differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns. Both congregations with existing planned-giving ministries and those looking to establish one will benefit from this webinar. Participating congregations will leave the webinar with a plan of action as well as receive a complimentary copy of ECF's Planned Giving On Demand toolkit. Register in advance for the webinar [here](#). FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant* (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

- **Celebration of cultural diversity:** Enjoy a diversity of dance, music and food on *Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dedham, at this event organized by the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries and the Racial Justice Commission's Subcommittee for Forming Antiracist Episcopal Communities. All are welcome; no cost to attend. FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries* (jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

- Brother Jonathan Maury, SSJE will lead a **workshop on celebrating the sacraments of healing** on *Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at St. Mark's Church in Southborough. Come learn how you might offer the sacraments of healing at your church. Lay and ordained people are welcome to attend. Suggested donation is \$15. Morning snacks and lunch will be provided. Find registration [here](#).

- The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened by the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries invites all to save the date to join for a **pilgrimage to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center** in Mashantucket, Conn., on *Thursday, March 7, 2024, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* Lunch is included, and a transportation option is available. Cost is \$10, with scholarships available. Find registration information [here](#). FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries* (jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

- Save the date for the **third diocesan Pan-African Conference**, to be held on *Saturday, April 27, 2024*, at St. Thomas's Church in Taunton. Bishop Alan M. Gates will be the guest speaker. More details will be forthcoming.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Anglican leaders call for global support of Diocese of Jerusalem's ministries as war intensifies** [Episcopal News Service]: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has joined with Archbishop Hosam Naoum in issuing a global appeal for support of Anglican ministries in the Holy Land as the war between Israel and Hamas intensifies. Welby and Naoum issued parallel [written statements on Oct. 24](#) lamenting the recent violence, including damage to an Anglican hospital in Gaza, while urging Anglicans to pray for and donate to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. They listed several global partners that are accepting donations on the diocese's behalf, including the [American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#). Read more [here](#).

The Diocese of Massachusetts bishops' statement is available [here](#), and the **Litany for Peace** written and shared by Bishop Carol J. Gallagher during the diocesan prayer vigil on Oct. 17 on Zoom is posted [here](#). Read additional perspective that Bishop Alan M. Gates offered in his annual Diocesan Convention address [here](#).

- **Grow in gratitude this fall:** The [United Thank Offering](#) is making available free resources to help individuals, families, Sunday school classes and groups focus on gratitude throughout November. Materials include: 30 days of text reminders to practice gratitude, a gratitude calendar, a Thanksgiving Day liturgy and activities, bulletin inserts, gratitude journals and children's sermon prompts. They are all available for downloading [here](#).

- **"A sign for you" Advent and Christmas resources from The Episcopal Church:** Episcopal Church Advent and Christmas resources are available [here](#). They include a customizable video, a digital invitation kit, United Thank Offering Christmas cards, sermons and more.

- The Joint Budget Committee of the Executive Council will hold **open hearings via Zoom to receive feedback from the wider church on the 2025-2027 Episcopal Church working budget**. The working budget was presented to the Episcopal Church Executive Council during its Oct. 24-27 meeting and is available publicly [here](#) for review and input.

Register to be a speaker or listener at the Zoom hearings, to be held on *Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. ET, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.* In addition, at *4 p.m. ET on Monday, Nov. 20*, the budget committee

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will hold a Zoom session with the Executive Council. The public is invited to observe the session. Register for the hearings [here](#). Written responses regarding the budget can be e-mailed to BudgetCommittee@episcopalchurch.org.

- The Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons **welcomes churchwide input as it continues to review and revise Title IV disciplinary canons related to clergy**. Feedback and recommendations can be submitted via [this online form](#) by *Nov. 15*. In a statement from its October meeting, the commission explained that its “work and discussions focused primarily on invitations from the presiding bishop and the president of the House of Deputies to address significant concerns across The Episcopal Church about reported problems with disciplinary proceedings in which a bishop is the respondent, as well as additional issues with clergy disciplinary proceedings.” [Read more here](#).

- Clergy across The Episcopal Church are invited to participate in a national study, [Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations: Innovation Amidst and Beyond COVID-19](#). This survey is part of an **ongoing project to track congregational health** over the coming years. The study is being conducted in partnership with Hartford Institute for Religion Research, the Faith Communities Today (FACT) research initiative and many other denominations. This collaboration aims to provide clergy with helpful information about the changing nature of congregational life in the U.S. and ways to respond effectively.

The survey should be completed by a clergyperson; responses about individual congregations are confidential. A PDF of the survey is available [here](#) for those who wish to preview it. The deadline to complete the survey, online [here](#), is *Nov. 17*.

- **UTO invites 2024 annual grant applicants:** The United Thank Offering (UTO) has announced the availability of its annual grants for 2024, focusing on projects that welcome and include “the stranger.” Each diocese may only submit one grant application, so it is recommended that those planning to apply contact Martha Gardner (as below) by early December. A diocesan committee needs time to review applications and make a recommendation to the bishop before the churchwide UTO deadline of Jan. 19.

More information—including criteria for applicants, sample budgets and timelines, and forms—is available online [here](#) in English and Spanish. In addition, informational webinars will be held throughout the fall, as well as monthly open office hours for UTO staff to work directly with applicants on their materials. See dates and registration links [here](#).

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Oct. 19 meeting, Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from a co-chair of the Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations on the situation in the Holy Land.

Heard an update from Bishop Gates.

Heard an overview from the secretary of the diocese, the Rev. Rachel Wildman, about Diocesan Convention.

Heard a request for formation of a January Council Retreat Planning Team.

Heard a report from the treasurer, Ted Ts'o, including an update on the newly formed Budget, Strategy and Governance Committee.

Heard a report from the chief financial officer, Debra Thomas, about diocesan conflict of interest and whistleblower policies.

Received a draft of the 2024 meeting schedule.

Received instructions on the Executive Committee Nominating Process.

Thanked all outgoing members for their time on Council: The Rev. Rachel Wildman, Secretary of the Diocese, The Rev. Walter Connelly (Mystic Valley Deanery), Helen Gordon (Cape and Islands Deanery), William Maluil (Mystic Valley Deanery, Bishop Appointee), Cris Latorre (Boston Harbor Deanery, Bishop Appointee), Ed Rewolinski (Boston Harbor Deanery, Bishop Appointee) and Virginia Rogers (Merrimack Valley Deanery).

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

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

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

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

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Jeremy C. Froyen, CFC has been called as rector of Grace Church in New Bedford. He will begin on Dec. 1.

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt is now serving as bridge priest at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn.

The Rev. James Hornsby is now serving as bridge priest at St. Luke's Church in Fall River.

The Rev. Eva Ortez has been called as curate to St. Stephen's Church in Boston and as chaplain to the St. Stephen's Youth Programs. She began on Oct. 8.

The Rev. Kevin Vetiac has been appointed Episcopal chaplain at MIT in Cambridge.

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Central Region

Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@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.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.
DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church 3/4 time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.***Northern and Western Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org
*(until Jan. 1, 2024, while
 Canon Martha Hubbard is on
 sabbatical)*

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.***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.*

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*Continued from page 7***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
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: *None at this time.*

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

[BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church](#) *full time*

[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*

[SANDWICH, St. John's Church](#) *full time*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

PLYMOUTH, Christ Church

WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah

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.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the December issue is **Wednesday, Nov. 29 at noon.**

Please note that the deadline for the January 2024 issue is earlier than usual because of the holidays. The deadline for the January issue is **Wednesday, Dec. 13 at noon.** E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.