



Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

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**Applications for
Reparations Fund
Committee now being
accepted**

Bishop Alan Gates welcomes applications from clergy and lay members of the diocese seeking appointment to the newly forming Reparations Fund Committee.

The Reparations Fund Committee will be an active and working committee, with the authority to discern, oversee, direct and report on all reparations payments, disbursements, investments and other financial transactions to further the fund's mission. The Fund Committee will comprise 11 members (both clergy and lay) appointed by the bishop diocesan, a majority of whom will identify as African American or Afro Caribbean. Applicants should be lay members in good standing of a congregation in the diocese or clergy who are canonically resident or licensed to serve in the diocese. Find more information, including skills being sought in committee members, [here](#).

The online application form is available [here](#) for those who would like to be considered for appointment to the Fund Committee; the deadline to submit an application is *Wednesday, Jan. 31*.

Questions may be directed to the Office of the Bishop by contacting Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gates, at lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407.

**Bishop Nominating
Committee receiving
applications by Jan. 13**

Online education opportunities:
"Profile Overview" &
"What is the Role of a Bishop?"

The Nominating Committee for the election of the diocese's next bishop opened the nomination and application process on Dec. 5, and is accepting applications until *Jan. 13* (nominations closed on Dec. 30). The diocesan profile, available at www.diomass.org/bishop-search/profile, contains application instructions.

The Nominating Committee invites all members of the diocese to an online education opportunity on *Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.*, focusing on "What is the Role of a Bishop?" Registration, [here](#), is required to receive the Zoom link. A recording of the Dec. 14 session, "Diocesan Profile Overview," is available [here](#).

Questions may be directed to the Nominating Committee at co-chairs@mabishopsearch.org. Visit www.diomass.org/bishop-search for more information and updates as they become available.

**Prompt attention needed
for 2024 Leadership
Report process soon to
be underway**

The Leadership Report and Lay Delegate Certification Form are distributed annually to collect updated church, clergy and lay leadership contact information. Congregations are asked to submit the Congregational Leadership Report within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons ([Canon 2.2](#)) and no later than *Friday, March 1*.

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The information provided through this report is critical to make sure that important diocesan information reaches congregations' current leaders in the upcoming year. **As there will be a bishop election on May 18, 2024, it's imperative that congregations submit delegate data in a timely manner.**

Instructions for submitting necessary forms will be e-mailed to congregations in mid-January.

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

2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal launches in Lent

March 10 suggested as Bishops' Annual Appeal Ingathering Sunday

We are reminded throughout Scripture that God has formed an everlasting covenant with us. This covenant is an invitation to enter into relationship with God and to act together in harmony with one another and all the earth. In launching the 2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal, the bishops invite everyone to join in deepening covenants formed as the Diocese of Massachusetts.

A goal of \$200,000 has been set for the 2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal in support of shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation.

The bishops ask clergy and wardens to promote the Bishops' Annual Appeal locally: Announce it in your congregations and distribute materials directly to your people. While congregations may conduct a Bishops' Annual Appeal Ingathering on any Sunday, the bishops ask that congregations consider designating the *fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10*, as Bishops' Annual Appeal Ingathering Sunday. Materials will be sent to churches later this month.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

Registration is open for 2024 Ministry Discernment Conference

Registration is open for the **2024 Ministry Discernment Conference** offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry, to be held online on *Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.* This online conference will provide an in-depth look at the 2024 edition of the Ministry Discernment Handbook and give potential inquirers an opportunity to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts as they consider whether their call is to ordained ministry. **Any person considering applying for admission to the ordination process in 2024 should attend the conference**, along with a sponsoring priest and at least one member of the congregation's discernment committee.

Pre-registration online is required. Find more information and registration [here](#). Registration closes *Feb. 1*.

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

Priesthood ordinations scheduled

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

- **The Rev. Joshua Pdraig (Paddy) Cavanaugh** on *Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10:30 a.m.* at [All Saints Church in Richmond, Va.](#);
- **The Rev. Eva Ortez** on *Saturday, Jan. 13 at 3:30 p.m.* at [St. Stephen's Church in Boston](#); and
- **The Rev. Maxwell Sklar** on *Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m.* at [St. Peter's-San Pedro Church in Salem](#).

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

Clergy events coming up

- Registration is open, [here](#), for the **2024 Clergy Professional Development Days**, offered in two parts, with each part held four times **between January and March**.

Part I is a workshop on how to avoid anti-Judaism in preaching and worship during Holy Week, led by the Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski. All clergy are encouraged to take advantage of this workshop. **Part II is a Safe Church Review session** which fulfills the refresher requirement, along with attendance at a Part I workshop and completion of assigned online training, for those clergy who are due for one this year. Clergy may choose to attend the segments in any order and in any combination. Sessions take place on *Saturday, Jan. 13* at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; *Wednesday, Feb. 7* at the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill; *Monday, March 4* at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion; and *Tuesday, March 12* and *Wednesday, March 13* on Zoom.

Clergy who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- This year's **Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat**, to be held *Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 6-8* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will explore the spirituality of trees in sacred texts, and in participants' own stories, as those gathered seek to be filled with silent peace, rooted and grounded in God's love. There will be time for reflection, meditation and creative expression. Participants are invited to bring a story of a tree that has been important in their life; visual images are also welcome. The Rev. Dawna Wall and Helen Netos, as facilitators, will guide retreat conversations and will be on hand for spiritual companionship during free time. Find registration information [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gallagher (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).*

- All clergy of the diocese are invited to save the date for the **annual Clergy Conference**, to take place *Monday-Tuesday, April 29-30* at the Devens Common Center in Devens. This year's featured speaker will be Debie Thomas, minister of lifelong formation at St.

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Mark's Church in Palo Alto, Calif., columnist and contributing editor for *The Christian Century* and author of *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories*, a collection of essays that explore the life and teachings of Jesus. More information and registration will be announced.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- Among the prayer, giving, advocacy and learning resources featured in the bishops' Nov. 30 letter ([here](#)) regarding response to war between Israel and Hamas, there are two upcoming **online book discussions**, one to share and discuss Middle East book suggestions, on *Thursday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.*, and another to discuss *The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine* by Miko Peled, on *Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.* (sign up information [here](#)). All are invited to participate.

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

- **Season of Epiphany Dinner for BIPOC Episcopal Community:** The BIPOC Support Committee of the Racial Justice Commission invites all BIPOC Episcopal clergy and lay people to dinner on *Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m.*, at St. Peter's Church in Cambridge. Come join in this season of hope, to witness to justice and joy and the gift of community at the beginning of a new year together. RSVP online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered via Zoom on two consecutive weeknights (you must attend both): *Tuesday, Jan. 16* and *Wednesday, Jan. 17, 6:30-8:30 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 INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- The **54th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast** in Boston, this year focused on the theme "Keeping the Promise of Democracy," takes place on *Monday, Jan. 15 at 9 a.m.* at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The keynote speaker will be Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Ph.D., Ford Foundation Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Find more information and purchase tickets [here](#).

The breakfast represents over 50 years of commemoration and collaboration between St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and Union United Methodist Church to present this annual event dedicated to Dr. King's life and legacy.

- The **Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Poor People's Campaign** (MAPPCCEN) invites people from across the diocese to join in living into the 2022 Diocesan Convention [resolution](#) "Engage With and Support the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival." There are many ways to be involved with the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign and the MAPPCCEN. To learn more, join an online conversation hosted by the network on *Monday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.*; register [here](#).

In February, the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) will be kicking off 40 weeks of action leading into the 2024 elections. On *Saturday, March 2*, the PPC will host simultaneous marches and rallies at state houses across the country, including one in Boston. Exact times are being finalized; the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston will provide hospitality before and after that gathering.

E-mail MAPPCCEN@gmail.com for more information and to be put on the mailing list.

- All are welcome for the **Absalom Jones Service** to be held on *Sunday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m.* at St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury. Bishop Alan M. Gates will preside, and the Rev. James Hairston will preach.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- All are welcome for **Choral Evensong commemorating Barbara C. Harris**, offered by All Saints Church in Brookline on *Sunday, Feb. 11 at 5 p.m.* Byron Rushing will be the guest preacher, and the service will feature music by Kerensa Briggs, Moses Hogan and Zanaida Stewart Robles. A light reception will follow. Contact [All Saints Church](#) with any questions.

- 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, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* Lunch is included, and transportation is available. Cost is \$10 (scholarships also available). Register [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- The **2024 Confirmation schedule** is available [here](#), and registration is open for these services. While most congregations will choose to attend a Confirmation service in or near their deanery, they are welcome at any of the services. Candidates should be registered at least a month in advance of the service. To register candidates for these services, contact Brad Rothrock, Cathedral Administrator, at brothrock@diomass.org.

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Pre-Confirmation Retreats have been scheduled for *Friday-Sunday, March 8-10* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., and *Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at Grace Church in Newton. A diocesan **Acolyte Festival** also is being planned for *Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit Mattapan. Details will be announced.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Yolanda Rolle, Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (yrolle@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The next round of Episcopal Church **Becoming Beloved Community grants**—allocated by General Convention—will open for applications Jan. 5 through March 1. About \$200,000 is available for new and existing projects that help increase engagement in racial justice, healing and reconciliation. Details will be available soon; an online information session to learn more about the grant process is scheduled for *Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.* (register [here](#)).
- A **feature-length documentary inspired by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s message of unselfish love** will have a nationwide theatrical release on *Jan. 23*. The film, “[A Case for Love](#),” the project of a nonprofit movie company led by Episcopalians, is expected to appear in at least 1,000 theaters for the one-day initial release, and more dates could be added if large numbers of moviegoers turn out for the premiere. Find more information [here](#).
- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples’ Justice Network’s book discussion series continues** on Zoom on *Wednesday, Jan. 10*, with discussion of *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War* by Lisa Brooks; register [here](#). The next session is on *March 13* (*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).
- Bishop Carol Gallagher will lead “**Exploring the Doctrine of Discovery**,” a **five-session online course** for Province I, beginning in late January via the Bexley Seabury Pathways for Baptismal Learning platform. Everyone is welcome in this course. Participants will find out the thinking behind the Doctrine of Discovery, how it was justified by Christian church leaders, what happened to the people it touched, how it continues to affect Indigenous people worldwide today and what hope there is for Indigenous people in the future. Find more information and registration [here](#).
- **Episcopal Service Corps (ESC) recruiting for 2024-2025:** Though the Diocese of Massachusetts’ Episcopal Service Corps program, Life Together, is on “sabbatical” for the 2024-2025 program year, interested young adults are encouraged to explore one of the

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seven other ESC programs recruiting fellows for the upcoming year. Programs across the country offer opportunities to grow in one's faith, meaningfully serve the community and live together in intentional community. All programs offer cost-of-living stipends, rent and utilities, and health coverage, among other benefits. Apply by Jan. 15 for priority consideration. To learn more about ESC and apply, visit episcopalservicecorps.org/apply or contact Life Together's executive director, Kelsey Rice Bogdan, at kelsey@diomassintern.org.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Dec. 7 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from Bishop Alan Gates and Bishop Carol Gallagher.

Voted to approve changing the matching requirement for Sending Serving grants from 100 percent to 25 percent for 2024.

Heard an update on planning for the January Diocesan Council retreat from the secretary of the diocese, Julie Shea.

Voted to approve the authorizing document to create the Reparations Fund Committee.

Heard updates from the treasurer of the diocese, Ted Ts'o.

Voted to approve 2024 diocesan staff clergy housing allowances.

Heard an update from the Rev. Walter Connelly on nominations for Diocesan Council's Executive Committee.

Next Council Meeting: *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 19-20*, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.

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. Dan Bell began as interim Episcopal chaplain at Boston College on Nov. 1, 2023.

The Rev. Bob Davidson began as bridge priest at St. Paul's Church in Lynnfield on Dec. 1, 2023.

The Rev. Megan Holding began as rector of the Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington on Dec. 6, 2023.

The Rev. Kevin Vetiac began as interim Episcopal chaplain at Northeastern University on Jan. 1.

DEACONS ON THE MOVE:

None at this time.

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Central RegionRegional 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.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church: [Curate/Assistant Rector](#)
WABAN, Parish of the Good Shepherd: [Assistant to the Rector](#)**Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore
LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church
READING, Church of the Good Shepherd
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**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.)*
[AYER, St. Andrew's Church](#)**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*
LOWELL, St. Anne's Church and St. John's Church,
full-time collaboration
WESTON, St. Peter's Church *full-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.*

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Southern Region

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

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CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

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

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time

[HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist](#)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church

HOLBROOK, St. John's Church

SANDWICH, St. John's Church

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

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

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

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church full time

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church full time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

DUXBURY, St. John the Evangelist Church: [Curate](#)

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.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the February issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 31 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

Find the newsletter **deadline schedule for 2024** [here](#).