



Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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### **Consecration celebration invites everyone's prayer and participation**

Details and updates at [www.diomass.org/consecration](http://www.diomass.org/consecration)

Preparations are nearing completion for a joyous celebration in the Diocese of Massachusetts of the ordination and consecration of Bishop-elect Julia E. Whitworth, to take place on *Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m.* at Trinity Church in Boston. Everyone's prayers and participation are invited!

**General seating:** Since seating at the consecration service will be available as capacity allows, advance registration is necessary. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., with the liturgical procession beginning at 10:30 a.m. A reception will follow the 11 a.m. service.

**Join a watch party:** The service will be livestreamed, and for those who would like to watch together with others, regional watch parties are being hosted by seven church sites around the diocese, with St. David's Church in South Yarmouth newly added to the list. Watch parties open at 10 a.m. at all locations. Registration is not required, but will be appreciated as site hosts plan for seating and hospitality.

**Evensong with seating of the new bishop:** The celebration continues on *Sunday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m.*, when the new bishop is seated at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston during a service of Evensong. All are welcome; RSVP is requested.

Visit [www.diomass.org/consecration](http://www.diomass.org/consecration) for all registration and RSVP links, livestreaming and regional watch party details, how to contribute toward gifts for Bishop-elect Whitworth, and more.

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### **Healthy Congregations Task Force launches "Landscape Assessment"**

The Healthy Congregations Task Force—formed in response to the [2023 Diocesan Convention resolution](#) calling for such—has partnered with Holy Cow! Consulting to launch a "Landscape Assessment" to "provide valuable information concerning how we are living into our mission and vision as a diocesan community, where we shine, where we'd like to focus our energy and where we can, in collective ministry, find new ways to lift each other up."

**The task force asks everyone—clergy and lay people, including diocesan staff—to fill out the assessment** which is available in English and Spanish. Clergy are encouraged to share this information with their congregations and worshipping communities. The assessment will take about 15 minutes to complete and must be done at one time. Confidentiality is central to this work; all responses are anonymous and go directly to Holy Cow! Consulting.

Visit [www.diomass.org/healthy-congregations](http://www.diomass.org/healthy-congregations) for additional information. Questions are welcome to the Healthy Congregations Task Force at [HCTF@diomass.org](mailto:HCTF@diomass.org).

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**Please see page 6 for how to support Hurricane Helene relief efforts.**

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## **Reparations Fund Committee membership announced**

Members of the inaugural Reparations Fund Committee have been appointed by Bishop Alan Gates and confirmed by the Diocesan Council at its meeting on Sept. 14.

The committee's creation was authorized by the annual Diocesan Convention in 2023. The Reparations Fund that the committee will administer was created by the convention in 2022 after two years of study and preparation. The committee's role will be to carry out the convention's stated mission for the fund, "to help repair the breach of systemic racism in the life of our diocese, region and nation, by resourcing Black communities to flourish in myriad ways." The committee will discern, oversee, direct and report on all reparations payments, disbursements and investments, in furtherance of the fund's mission.

Constance Perry of Trinity Church in Boston and the Rev. Nathan Ives of St. Peter's-San Pedro Church in Salem will serve as committee co-chairs, with committee members:

- Kelly Bara of Grace Church in Medford;
- Clyde Belgrave of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan;
- Leslie Gore of St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury;
- The Rev. Alan Hesse of St. John's Church in Sandwich;
- Theresa Howell of St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge;
- Ann Hunt of the Church of Our Saviour in Milton;
- The Rev. Hall Kirkham of St. Michael's Church in Milton;
- Byron Rushing of St. Stephen's Church in Boston; and
- Sara-Ann Semedo of St. David's Church in South Yarmouth.

Bishop Alan Gates and Bishop Carol Gallagher reviewed applications and identified committee membership with the counsel of leaders and members of the Racial Justice Commission, including the Rev. Carol Morehead, the Rev. Will Mebane, the Rev. Chris Wendell, Louise Gant, the Rev. Edwin Johnson and the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa. Within the guidelines of the committee's organizing authorization, membership is made up of a majority of persons of color, predominantly lay persons, and members drawn from all three regions of the diocese.

The committee will begin its work in accordance with the Guiding Principles of the Fund as authorized by Diocesan Convention.

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## **Celebrating Bishop Alan Gates and 10 years of ministry among us:**

*Give generously: Allston Abbey Campaign to support Anglican Episcopal Community of Learning at Boston University School of Theology*

Everyone is invited to give generously to the **Allston Abbey Campaign launched in honor of Bishop Alan Gates**. Online gifts are gratefully received [here](#).

Located on the campus of the former St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Church, Allston Abbey is a collaborative mission for learning, worship and ministry. Bishop Gates is especially excited about its collaboration with the Anglican Episcopal Community of Learning at Boston University School of Theology, providing it with space for offices, trainings, worship and gatherings. The campaign seeks to raise funds to complete residential facilities for the students.

Watch for mailings containing more information, and learn more in the campaign brochure, available online [here](#).

*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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*New African Ministry Center  
named in Bishop Gates's honor*

An African ministry center has been taking shape at the former Grace Church in Everett, and in July, the Diocesan Council voted to approve naming it the **Bishop Alan M. Gates African Anglican Episcopal Mission Center**. An official opening and blessing of the center, at 67 Norwood Street in Everett, will be held on *Saturday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.*. The opening and blessing ceremony will also include the installation of the new center's Peace Pole, displaying "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages. Everyone's prayers and presence are invited for this ministry milestone. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org)).*

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**Prepare for Diocesan  
Convention at upcoming  
forums**

Online registration is open for Diocesan Convention, to take place *Saturday, Nov. 9* at the Marriott Boston Quincy Hotel in Quincy. Early registration is encouraged. Find the registration link and other details at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024).

**Pre-Convention Forums**—open to all, particularly voting members of the convention— will be held via Zoom. The forums offer an important opportunity for discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including the proposed 2025 diocesan budget, resolutions and other important convention components. The forums are scheduled to take place on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.:* [Register here.](#)
- *Friday, Oct. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.:* [Register here.](#)
- *Saturday, Oct. 12, 2-3:30 p.m.:* [Register here.](#)
- *Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.:* [Register here.](#)

Because the convention is a one-day event with schedule and set-up limits, in-person exhibits won't be possible this year. Instead, **organizations and ministries are invited to submit digital fliers** (PowerPoint, Google Slides or PDF) for consideration to be included in a virtual presentation of informative slides. The deadline for submission is *Friday, Oct. 11* to the Rev. Margaret Lias at [mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org).

**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. 25*. **Delegate changes** should be reported via the delegate substitution form, [here](#), until *Friday, Nov. 1*; after that date, e-mail [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org) to ensure the change is processed.

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**Election season offerings  
for faithful engagement**

- Massachusetts Episcopalians are invited to partner with the [Poor People's Campaign](#) to **"Get Out the Vote"** and help mobilize 15 million poor and low-wage voters across the country. Ways to be involved include local canvassing, text-banking and social media messaging, with training provided.

The Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Poor People's Campaign encourages participation as a chance to stand in solidarity with and support people on the margins, and as a way to live

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into the [2022 Diocesan Convention resolution](#) inviting engagement in the Poor People's Campaign and [Episcopal Church support](#) of it. These get-out-the-vote activities also align with The Episcopal Church's [Vote Faithfully](#) program to support voting rights and election engagement in a non-partisan manner. [This flier](#) provides more information and can be shared in church newsletters. *FOR INFORMATION/TO SIGN UP: Amelia Slawsby, MA Episcopal Network for the Poor People's Campaign ([MAPPCEN@gmail.com](mailto:MAPPCEN@gmail.com)).*

- The [Society of St. John the Evangelist](#)'s "**Pilgrimage to the Presidency**" is underway, a series of pre-recorded videos and live Zoom conversations on the subject of prayer, politics and the church's role in the public square, all culminating with an in-person and livestreamed vigil the night of *Election Day, Nov. 5* at the SSJE monastery in Cambridge. Join Brother Lucas Hall, SSJE and others seeking to answer the question: How can we the church engage in the realm of politics while maintaining integrity, love of God and neighbor, and commitment to the common good? Follow along at [pilgrimagetothepresidency.org](http://pilgrimagetothepresidency.org).

- The Cathedral Church of St. Paul and Old North Church in Boston are co-hosting a **Pre-Election Day Vigil** on Zoom on *Monday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m.* All are welcome to join for a time of prayer for a safe, peaceful and just election, and for our nation and our Commonwealth. Register for the Zoom link [here](#).

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## NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Creation Care Justice Network discerns next steps:** [An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#) has a second cohort of congregations beginning this fall. As the program expands throughout the New England dioceses of Province I, it is developing a new operational model and a new relationship with the [Creation Care Justice Network](#). The network is therefore in a period of transition, reevaluating its role and mission. Anyone with ideas to share is invited to contact the network at [CreationJusticeEpisMA@gmail.com](mailto:CreationJusticeEpisMA@gmail.com).

The Creation Care Justice Network's **newsletter**, "[Green Justice News](#)," has been ably edited by Deacon Liz Good for many years, but she would like to move on to new ministries. If you know someone who may be interested in picking up this valuable task, please be in touch via the e-mail address above.

- [American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#) (AFEDJ) is holding its annual board meeting in Boston the weekend of *Oct. 12-13*, and the [Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester](#) will be hosting "**An Evening with Archbishop Hosam Naoum**" on *Saturday, Oct. 12, 6-8 p.m.*, as a fundraiser for AFEDJ. All are invited (RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3Y2v2f7>). Archbishop Naoum also will preach at Epiphany on *Sunday, Oct. 13 at the 10 a.m. service*, followed by a Q&A session at 11 a.m. The service will be livestreamed.

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- The annual **Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration**, on *Monday, Oct. 14, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.* (with children's program *from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*), will be hosted this year by Christ Church in Andover. Guest preacher will be Janine Tinsley-Roe, MMHC, who served as national missionary for Native American Ministries for The Episcopal Church from 2004 to 2008. All are welcome to join for this program, lunch and Holy Eucharist. Register and find details [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org)) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).*
  
  - [Episcopal City Mission](#) invites participation in its **180th Annual Meeting** on *Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.*, at All Saints Church in Worcester and online. All canonically resident clergy of the diocese and two lay persons from every parish will be able to vote during the business meeting portion. All other attendees will be granted seat and voice for the business meeting and will be able to participate fully in everything else. Register [here](#). Questions may be directed to Derek Wong at [admin@ecmteam.us](mailto:admin@ecmteam.us).
  
  - A **webinar for wardens and vestry members to review diocesan policies** will be offered twice: *Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to noon ([register here](#)) and Saturday, Oct. 26, 1-4 p.m. ([register here](#))*. The hope is that at least two members of the elected lay leadership from each congregation will attend one of the webinars—to include short presentations on the policies, break-out group time for discussion and time for questions and answers. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org)) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
  
  - **Annual Enrollment** is coming up, *Oct. 16 to Nov. 15*. This is the period **when eligible employees can make changes to their enrollment in medical and dental insurance without a qualifying event**. There are no changes to the plan offerings from 2024 to 2025. However, all enrolled members are encouraged to log in and confirm their choices for the coming year.
 

There will be a **member education session** led by Chipasha Kashoki from the Church Pension Group (CPG) on *Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 4 p.m.* on Zoom. Please share the [registration link](#) with eligible employees.

CPG will be sending out e-mails to all enrolled members with information on how to make their choices for next year. The Explanations of Benefits & Coverage for the medical and dental plans are available on [CPG's website](#). Additionally, a comparison chart for the available plans can be found [here](#). The diocese's policies for congregations to provide health insurance to employees can be found in the Compensation and Benefits Guidelines [here](#).

Eligible unenrolled employees should contact Nathaniel Fasman, Human Resources Administrator, at [nfasman@diomass.org](mailto:nfasman@diomass.org) if they would like to enroll in insurance for 2025. Contact him also to request a copy of the new rates for 2025, or with any questions.
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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- In response to the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Helene, **prayers for recovery, and donations to [Episcopal Relief & Development's Hurricane Relief Fund](#) are invited.** Episcopal Relief & Development said in a Sept. 30 web [statement](#) that it is in communication with partners in the region hit by the storm, including Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina.

“This storm has caused widespread damage to a huge swath of the southern U.S.,” said Katie Mears, Senior Technical Specialist, Disaster Risk and Resilience, for Episcopal Relief & Development. “For now, we ask for people who live outside of impacted areas to stay put—the impacted communities are not prepared for in-kind donations or volunteers from out of town at the moment.”

Additional coverage from Episcopal News Service, including early assessments and from-the-ground advice on how to offer help, is available [here](#).

- The planning committee for the **investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe** has made available [resources](#) to aid Episcopalians in hosting local watch parties for the churchwide virtual event on *Saturday, Nov. 2 at 11 a.m. ET*. A prelude showcasing the rich mosaic of The Episcopal Church begins at *9:30 a.m. ET* with a video “roll call” of dioceses. The service will be livestreamed on the [event webpage](#) as well as The Episcopal Church’s [Facebook page](#).

The **Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston will hold an Investiture Watch Party** for viewing the livestream on Nov. 2. Doors will open by 9:30 a.m. for light breakfast and tuning in to the “roll call” of dioceses, continuing with the investiture service at 11 a.m. and celebration of Holy Eucharist concurrently with those gathered in the Chapel of Christ the Lord in The Episcopal Church Center in New York City. RSVP to [cathedral@diomass.org](mailto:cathedral@diomass.org) so cathedral hosts can plan well for the gathering.

- **Registration is now open for “Fostering a Future with Leaders of Color in the Episcopal Church in New England”:** Are you a person of color, wondering about how God is calling you to move more deeply into leadership in The Episcopal Church, or considering how God might be calling you to grow your ministry, deepen your vocation and offer your gifts in the church as a lay or ordained person? Are you desiring a deeper connection with leaders of color in church? If you’re curious about the variety of spaces where lay and ordained ministry is more deeply connected within the church, plan to gather with lay and ordained leaders of color from around The Episcopal Church in New England for a day of discernment, story sharing and empowerment. It takes place on *Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*, at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington. Find more information and register [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Kelly O’Connell, event contact for the Diocese of Massachusetts ([koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)).*

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## GRANTS & LOANS:

- **UTO invites 2025 annual grant applicants:** The United Thank Offering (UTO) has announced the availability of its annual grants for 2025, focused this year on water issues. Find information about the kinds of projects which can be funded [here](#).

Each diocese may only submit one grant application, so all applications must be submitted to the Rev. Margaret Lias (as below) **no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 6**. A diocesan committee will then review the applications and make a recommendation to the bishop before the churchwide UTO deadline of Jan. 10.

More information—including criteria for applicants, sample budgets and timelines, and forms—is available online [here](#) in English and Spanish. Applicants are encouraged to watch the videos and take advantage of the monthly open office hours to get their questions answered; information can be found [here](#).

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

- The application and program information for **2024 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 25, 2024*, for sabbaticals in 2025; award decisions will be announced in November.

*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.*

- There are two diocesan grant programs through which funds are awarded by vote of deanery assemblies: **Sending Serving grant funds** support programs that enhance the outreach ministries of congregations through new or existing programs. **House of Mercy grant funds** support programs and projects that serve women and children in need. **The 2024 deadline for these deanery grant programs has been extended to Dec. 20**. Find more details [here](#).

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

- The Church Home Society has launched a three-year pilot grant program, allocating up to \$40,000 a year to support **youth ministries in Episcopal churches**. Grant awards will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Applications (form available [here](#)) are due the last day of the month, through April 2025, and they will be reviewed at the following monthly board meeting.

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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its Sept. 14 retreat, the Diocesan Council:

Approved assessment adjustments for St. James's Church in Amesbury; St. Paul's Church in Newburyport; St. Chrysostom's Church in Quincy; St. John's Church in Sandwich; and St. Peter's Church in Weston.

Approved the proposed budget of revenue and expenses for 2025, including individual parish and mission assessments and approved adjustments for 2024, to be presented to the Diocesan Convention for its consideration and action.

Approved the allocation of funds remaining from the sale of 40 Prescott Street in Brookline to be utilized for ongoing work at 149 Roxbury Street.

Approved the following:

*Whereas the meeting of Diocesan Council on Sept. 14, 2024, is the final Council meeting at which the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates is presiding before his retirement, be it resolved that this Council offers its profound thanks and gratitude for the leadership of Bishop Gates in the work of this Council and wishes him much joy in the years to come.*

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m., via Zoom.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator 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 Supply List:** To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, or to be added to it, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at [jcollen@diomass.org](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org).

- **Consultants needed to shepherd parishes in transition:**

Currently in the diocese there is a large number of congregations in the priest-in-charge process, and there is a need for consultants who can help guide these churches and priests on their path. Those who have served in lay or clergy leadership in congregations, have been a member of a search committee or have skills in discernment, development or human resources may be well-suited for this role. Training is available.

Ideally, consultants would commit to a congregation for three years, but some people may be drawn to the work for certain years or particular points in the discernment process. Roughly, the first year involves getting to know each other; the second year is envisioning the future for the congregation; and the third year is a discernment process to decide whether the priest-in-charge is the right candidate for rector and if the candidate discerns a calling to remain as rector.

More detailed information about the process is available [here](#). If interested, contact Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development ([jcollen@diomass.org](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org)).

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**Central Region**

*Alewife and Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Gregory Perez [gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)*

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

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

*None at this time.*

**RECTOR SEARCHES**

**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian’s Church  
SHARON, St. John’s Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

DORCHESTER, All Saints’ Parish, Ashmont  
NORWOOD, Grace Church

**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.*

BURLINGTON, St. Mark’s Church

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

*None at this time.*

**Northern and Western Region**

*Regional Canon Gregory Perez [gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)*

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark’s Church

**RECTOR SEARCHES**

**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

LYNN, St. Stephen’s Memorial Church  
ROCKPORT, St. Mary’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:**

*None at this time.*

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

DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore 1/2 time

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:**

*None at this time.*

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**Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

SWANSEA, Christ Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***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 November issue is **Wednesday, Oct. 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

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