



Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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**It's not too late:
Healthy Congregations
Task Force welcomes
survey responses**

The "Landscape Assessment" launched by the Healthy Congregations Task Force is still open and accepting responses toward the aim of providing "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 to fill out the assessment which is available in English and Spanish. Clergy and congregational leaders are encouraged to share this information with their congregations and worshipping communities. The assessment takes about 15 minutes to complete. Confidentiality is central to this work; all responses are anonymous and go directly to Holy Cow! Consulting which is administering the survey. Visit www.diomass.org/healthy-congregations for additional information. Questions are welcome to the Healthy Congregations Task Force at HCTF@diomass.org.

**Diocesan Convention
gathers Nov. 9 in Quincy**

Details and links at
www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024

Registration for in-person attendance at the upcoming Diocesan Convention **closes on Thursday, Nov. 7**. Find registration and livestream links, materials and other details at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024. The convention takes place on *Saturday, Nov. 9* at the Marriott Boston Quincy Hotel in Quincy.

Any **delegate changes** not reported before Nov. 1 should be e-mailed to lsimons@diomass.org to ensure that they get processed.

Participants are asked to please note that **all amendments to resolutions must be submitted in writing** and sent to convention@diomass.org (including on Saturday). This helps ensure that the amendment is conveyed to the convention exactly as the submitter intends, and helps with quicker presentation of amendment language on projection screens during the business sessions. Those intending to present amendments on Saturday are asked to let the convention office know as soon as possible.

**New priests to be
ordained**

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

- The Rev. Faith Mbutia on *Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.*, at [Grace Church in New Bedford](#);
- The Rev. Amanda Rice on *Saturday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.* Central, at [Grace Church in Kirkwood, Mo.](#);
- The Rev. Silas Kotnour on *Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.*, at [Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield](#);

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- The Rev. Sarah Neumann on *Saturday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m.*, at [Christ Church in Cambridge](#); and
- The Rev. Molly Minnerath on *Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m.*, at [St. Paul's Church in Bedford](#).

Please contact the hosting congregation about service details.

Ministry Discernment Conference to offer broader focus in 2025

The annual Ministry Discernment Conference has a new focus in 2025: **“How Is God Calling Me? A Day of Resources for Vocations of All Kinds.”** It is for anyone discerning God’s call in their life. Everyone who is interested in discerning calls to ministry in the church and in the world, both lay and ordained, is warmly invited to gather at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston for the 2025 Ministry Discernment Conference on *Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*

This gathering, jointly hosted by the Commission on Ministry and the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer, will feature Bishop Julia Whitworth’s reflections on discernment, a panel discussion with people serving in a variety of Christian vocations and an introduction to resources for individual reflection, communal discernment in congregations and churchwide discernment programs. After lunch, participants will be invited, in smaller groups, to learn more about the programs that most interest them.

People who want to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts are especially encouraged to attend, along with their sponsoring clergy, potential parish discernment committee members and family members.

The cost to attend this event is \$25, and pre-registration online is required. Registration will open [here](#) on Dec. 1.

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

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Annual Enrollment** continues until *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.

CPG is 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 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.

- **Timely webinar topics from Congregational Consultants:**

The diocesan Congregational Consultants have available a number of recorded past webinars that may be of particular interest during the budget season. Relevant topics during November include congregational budgets and clergy compensation. For more information and to access the videos, see the Learning Opportunities section of the consultants' webpage at www.diomass.org/resources/parish-clergy-support/congregational-consultants. Questions may be directed to Edward Rewolinski and Betsy Blagdon at dioconsultants@diomass.org.

- The Evangelism Working Group will discuss Patricia Lyons's book *What is Evangelism?* (Church Publishing) on *Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.* on Zoom. The **Evangelism Working Group** is a new committee of Diocesan Council. **Meetings are open to all** in the laity and clergy of the diocese with an interest in evangelism. Please e-mail the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock (joycecg@gmail.com) or the Rev. Dr. Regina Walton (rwalton@hds.harvard.edu) for the meeting link.

- Several congregations in the Diocese of Massachusetts have had connections with the organization [Cristosal](http://Cristosal.org) and its mission engagement in northern Central America, and all who are interested in learning more are invited to an **upcoming evening of inspiration, connection and encouragement to action** with Noah Bullock, the executive director of Cristosal and missionary for The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of El Salvador. The gathering takes place on *Thursday, Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m.*, at the WeWork Event Space (501 Boylston Street) in Boston. Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#) by Nov. 15. Questions may be directed to Jeanne Rikkers (jmrikkers@crystal.org or 763-357-7713).

- **New creation care curriculum available for use:** The Creation Care Justice Network shares word that several congregations are hosting discussion series on the new [Love God Love God's World curriculum](#) this coming year, including St. Paul's Church in Bedford (starting Nov. 6) and St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln (after the holidays). Anyone interested in learning more is invited to e-mail CreationJusticeEpisMA@gmail.com.

The Creation Care Justice Network continues to discern next steps: A small group from the Creation Care Justice Network will be meeting with Bishop Julia Whitworth later in November to discuss the network and its relationship to the diocese and its creation care ministry. Anyone with ideas to share is invited to e-mail the address above.

Additionally, the Creation Care Justice Network is **looking for a new editor for its newsletter**, "[Green Justice News](#)," which has been ably edited and published by Deacon Liz Good for many years. Anyone who is interested, or knows someone who might be, is invited to e-mail her at DeaconEliz@gmail.com or be in touch with the network via its e-mail address above.

- **Congregations holding in-person group trainings for the Safe Church, Safe Communities curriculum can now follow a process to mark participants' user accounts with completed courses** in Praesidium Academy. Learners need to have accounts already set up in Praesidium Academy with a unique e-mail address, even if they never intend to sign in for online training. The completed training will be reflected on the individual learner transcripts and in administrator reporting for the congregation's sub-license location. Those interested in holding an in-person training at their church and who would like to learn how their learners' completed courses can be logged into Praesidium Academy after the training, contact Jennifer Garrett, Administrator for Networking and Events, at jgarrett@diomass.org.

- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network** invites participation in its next **online book discussion** on *Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.*, focused on *Massacre on the Merrimack: Hannah Duston's Captivity and Revenge in Colonial America* by Jay Atkinson. The discussion will be facilitated by Bishop Carol Gallagher and the Rev. Jennifer Beal. It is not necessary to have finished reading the book to participate. Register for the Zoom link [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

- **Registration is 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 by Nov. 15 [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell, event contact for the Diocese of Massachusetts (koconnell@diomass.org).*

- The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will host a *Friday-Sunday, Dec. 20-22* **retreat weekend, "You Are Not Alone: Responding to Grief and Trauma by Building Relationships"**—to include optional overnight components on Friday and Sunday, alongside the Saturday retreat day structured around three presentations on facing loneliness and isolation; overcoming grief and trauma; and building relationships and social connection.

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Retreat co-presenters are the Rev. Bob Davidson, an Episcopal priest and social worker who has served as a hospice chaplain and trauma counselor, and Dr. Anthony Valdini, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Chan School of Medicine. Find registration information [here](#), or contact the center at info@bchcenter.org or 603-547-3400.

- The Faith Formation Network of the New England dioceses that comprise Province I of The Episcopal Church has announced that it is combining its **annual formation conference** with [Forma](#) to offer “the best of both worlds.” The conference, titled “Come Away Together,” will be held *Jan. 27-30* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., and will gather colleagues from across New England over four days to meet and connect with provincial colleagues and participate in Forma workshops and content, as well as have opportunities for informal sharing and learning. Hear from Province I colleagues in [this one-minute video](#) about attending the conference, and find registration information [here](#). Thanks to financial support from Province I and its dioceses, the costs for registration, lodging and meals have been greatly reduced. Additional financial aid information is available by contacting Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Episcopal Church Advent and Christmas resources** are available online for use by congregations in sharing the “good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” (Luke 2:10) The resources are available [here](#) and include Advent calendars, curriculum and bulletin inserts; a customizable promotional video; sermons and lesson plans; and more.

- **“Data that Makes a Difference”**: Individuals and congregations can use demographic data available on the General Convention Office’s website to better understand their neighborhood and how to address justice needs around them. Find the “Explore Your Neighborhood” tool at <https://generalconvention.org/explore-your-neighborhood>. A step-by-step hand-out to add an eco-justice layer is available [here](#). Questions about the tool or other resources on the website can be directed to reports@episcopalchurch.org.

- **Do you know young adults looking for international mission opportunities?**: The Episcopal Church’s Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) is seeking Episcopalians ages 21 to 35 who are interested in international mission engagement. Applications are now being accepted through *Friday, Jan. 31* for 2025 placements. Find more information about the YASC program and application links [here](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **UTO invites 2025 annual grant applicants:** The United Thank Offering (UTO) has announced 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 is available online [here](#).

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

- Two diocesan grant programs award funds 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 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.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Oct. 24 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard updates from Bishop Whitworth and Bishop Gallagher.

Participated in a reflection and team-building exercise led by the secretary of the diocese, Julie Shea.

Heard updates about Diocesan Convention from Julie Shea.

Thanked outgoing member Tom Phillips (Concord River Deanery).

Heard a report from the Evangelism Working Group.

Heard a report from the ecumenical officers, Jane Redmont and the Rev. Dr. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski.

Heard an update about January retreat planning.

Heard a report from the Executive Committee.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator 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 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.

Central Region

Alewife and Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org

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

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Andrew Goldhor on Oct. 1 began as the rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown where he has been serving as the priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Daniel MacDonald begins as priest-in-charge at St. Luke's Church in Hudson on Nov. 10.

The Rev. Sarah Mato began as the rector of St. Andrew's Church in Framingham on Oct. 1.

The Rev. Raggs Ragan began serving as a priest associate at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston on Oct. 10.

The Rev. Dawna Wall, serving as priest associate at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, accepted a call as rector of St. John's Church in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, beginning Oct. 16. She will continue to support the Order of St. Anne-Bethany Convent in Arlington as chapel curator.

DEACONS ON THE MOVE:

The Rev. Linda Taupier began serving as deacon at St. John's Church in Arlington on Nov. 1.

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:

None at this time.

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

[DORCHESTER, All Saints' Parish, Ashmont](#)
[NORWOOD, Grace Church](#)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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

BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *part-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

None at this time.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church

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*Continued from page 7***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.***Southern Region***Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
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 December issue is **Wednesday, Nov. 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.Find the newsletter **deadline schedule for 2024** [here](#).