



Wednesday, July 2, 2025

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of
The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
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2025 Clergy Professional Development Day

Registration is available [here](#) for the remaining sessions of the 2025 Clergy Professional Development Day, offered in two parts on Tuesday, September 23, and Wednesday, September 24, on Zoom. Part I is a workshop from Braver Angels on how to understand the values and concerns of those who differ politically, consistent with the call to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19-20). The goal is to build bridges across divides and share beliefs in ways that support community and promote transformation. All clergy are encouraged to take advantage of this workshop.

For clergy who are due (or overdue) to refresh Safe Church requirements in 2025, Part II is a Safe Church/Title IV Review which fulfills the refresher requirement, along with attendance at a Part I workshop and assigned online training.

Those who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church Training renewal this year, have questions about requirements, or need more information should contact Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator, (jgarrett@diomass.org).

New Toolkit for Addressing Antisemitism

A new toolkit for addressing antisemitism in church practices, developed by Rev. Dr. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski and Rev. Emily J. Garcia, as well as Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash (United Church of Christ) as part of Lexington United Against Antisemitism's (LUAA's) Christian Reflection Working Group, is now [available](#). This resource is offered to "clergy, music directors, directors of religious education, and lay leaders to use in locating and uprooting manifestations of antisemitism in Christian communal life and practice." You can read [an article about the toolkit here](#).

This toolkit is an outgrowth of conversations and presentations that have been taking place since 2023. In that year, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski presented at an interfaith event hosted by Temple Emunah in Lexington about combating antisemitism, and the following January-March 2024, he presented at our diocesan Clergy Professional Development Days about "Speaking Truthfully: Avoiding Anti-Judaism in Holy Week." The interfaith event prompted the creation of LUAA and the development of the toolkit.

Welcoming Priests Who are New to Our Diocese

This fall, we will try on a new way of welcoming priests who have come from outside our diocese. If you moved here in 2024 or 2025 to start a new call, we would love for you to join us for a four-part series that will offer you a chance to connect with colleagues and learn about our life together in Christ in this time and place. Click [here](#) to learn more and register. If you have questions, please reach out to your Regional Canon. We're really looking forward to spending this time with you!

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, "TENS"

This year's stewardship theme is "[Tell Out My Soul](#)" (password: Luke1:46). Did you ever have news that was so exciting that you could not wait to share it with others? The Good News that fills our spirits with joy is about the radical abundance, abiding love, and healing power that Jesus shares with us when we respond to his call to follow him. All of the gifts that we have been given are ready to burst forth to serve our neighbors and share our love with a world in need.

For more information, contact Brian Raiche, Development Consultant (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

Event: Second Diomass Renewed Young Adult Ministry Discernment Team Retreat

Hosted by: Diocesan Renewed Young Adult Ministry Discernment Team (formerly Life Together)

Date: Saturday, July 19th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: online

Join the Discernment Team for a special online retreat and lend your voice to our efforts to design a new model for a transformative service corps program—one rooted in the spirit of Life Together and shaped by the evolving needs of young adults today. Our vision is to develop a program that reflects the mission of the Diocese of Massachusetts and nurtures the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of its participants. This second retreat will use the core values created by our discernment team and the mission, vision, and intended participants drafted in our first retreat.

Please fill out [this form](#) by **July 10** to RSVP or indicate your interest in learning more.

Event: Big Question Day: Where is God?

Hosted by: The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer (TSPC)

Date: August 23, 10 am-2:30 pm

Location: Newburyport, Boston, and Cohasset regional centers

Each year at TSPC we gather to consider a question central to our faith. This year we're asking *Where is God?* What does this question mean? What do we even mean when we speak of God? Why does evil seem to flourish? Is God everywhere? In these troubling times, where and how can we encounter the Divine?

All are welcome at our August 23 gatherings: lay and clergy, long-time believers and new seekers, those with answers to proffer and those with more questions to ask. Tea and coffee will be provided in the morning; please bring your own bagged lunch. Participants will receive materials they can bring back to their congregations to continue the conversation and learning.

Please [sign up to attend here](#). We hope to see you there!

Event: Indigenous People's Day Deer Island Pilgrimage

Hosted by: Diocese of Massachusetts and the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Date: October 13, 2025, SAVE THE DATE!

Location: Natick, MA, to Deer Island

Join the Diocese of Massachusetts and the Diocese of Western Massachusetts this fall as we mark the 350th anniversary of the beginning of Metacomb's Rebellion (King Philip's War) with a pilgrimage from Natick, MA, to Deer Island—the internment site where hundreds of Native people from the “praying towns” died from exposure and starvation in the winter of 1675-1676.

This spiritual experience of place, presence and still reflection will be guided by Native neighbors, supported by Episcopal communities, and include the bishops of both dioceses. This fall's events are a small step along the path toward justice that both Bishop Doug Fisher (EDOWMa) and Bishop Julia Whitworth called us into as dioceses in their recent joint statement endorsing the MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda.

More information about preparation for the October 13 pilgrimage, registration for the buses, and opportunities for individual congregational witness on October 12 will be shared in the months ahead.

For more information, contact the Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator for Governance and Grants and Assistant to the Chief of Staff, (mlias@diomass.org).

Events: Meditations, Shared Quiet Day, Wild Church

Hosted by: Bethany House of Prayer

Dates: See details below

Location: Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington

[Bethany House of Prayer](#) offers a nurturing place for contemplation and renewal. While its roots are with the Episcopal Church, it welcomes all, from various faith traditions and none. More information: office@bethanyhousearlington.org.

Friday Morning Meditation

Dates: Fridays, July 11, July 18, July 25, September 12 onward, 7:30-8:30 am

Location: St. Anne's side chapel (enter through the main door) or outside near the labyrinth, weather permitting

Join us on select Friday mornings in Arlington before your busy day begins for a time to come to quiet in community with others. This will be a shortened experience similar to our Thursday Contemplative Prayer. After meditation, we return together for contemplative dialogue—an opportunity to share what may have arisen during the quiet time. Contemplative dialogue is a time of deep listening to each other, to experience insight, healing, or renewal provided by the divinity of our time together. Newcomers welcome.

Shared Quiet Day: “Peace in the Storm”

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 10:30 am–3:30 pm

Location: Bethany House of Prayer

Cost: \$50, meal not included

Registration: Register [here](#). Limit of 12 people.

“...peace meets you at the garden gate... At Bethany every leaf and tree, every stone and flower seems infused with the prayers of the faithful.”

—Desmond Tutu

Come away to a quiet place and find rest for your soul. Upon arrival, each person receives a packet with suggested ways to spend the day in quiet contemplation. With the exception of an opening practice and the time you set aside for personal prayer, your time is unstructured. An atmosphere of prayerful silence is maintained in the houses and on the grounds for the duration of the Quiet Day.

Wild Church

Date: Saturday, August 16, 3 pm (rain date Sunday, August 17, 3 pm)

Location: Bethany House of Prayer

Cost/Donation: Free. For those who can afford it, there is a suggested donation of \$10-\$20 to Bethany House of Prayer.

“Earth’s crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.” ~ Elizabeth Barrett Browning

A Wild Church is a community of people who gather outdoors to worship and connect with God through experiences with nature. Wild Church communities seek to discover how God is revealed through the trees, the birds, the wind, and the earth—offering a time to experience the splendor of God’s creation and praise God for the beauty of the earth. This event will be led by Rev. Diane Anderson and Michele Ryan, leaders of Chapel of the Pines in Wellesley.

Diocesan Council Actions:

At its June 26 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

- Heard updates from Bishop Whitworth.
- Heard and discussed a presentation of draft Diocesan Mission, Core Values, Strategic Priorities, and Organizational Foundations, based on the consultancy work with Ministry Architects.
- Voted to approve an assessment adjustment for St. Dunstan's, Dover and St. James, Groveland.
- Reviewed the summary draft budget for 2026.
- Approved recommendations from the Budget Committee to allocate bequests and other capital income to fund deficits in reserve and capital accounts.
- Heard from the Secretary that Diocesan Convention will take place November 14-15 in Burlington, MA, with the theme, "The Hope to which we are Called" (from the Letter to the Ephesians).

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. on 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](#).

Supply Priest List: To request the most up-to-date Supply Priest

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

LAWRENCE, Grace Church (*Bilingual needed: Spanish/English*)
SAUGUS, St. John's (*Priest in Charge (PIC), half-time*)

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's-Rector

List, or to be added to it, email
David Ames, Administrator for
Clergy and Transitions, at
dames@diomass.org.

North and West Regions
Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org

Central Region
Regional Canon Marissa
Rohrbach
mrrohrbach@diomass.org

Southern Region
Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

DANVERS, All Saints of the North Shore (PIC, half-time)
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's (PIC, half-time)-Until August 15, 2025

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

READING, Church of the Good Shepherd
LYNN, St. Stephen's

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Priests interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.

DANVERS, All Saints of the North Shore (half-time)
MALDEN, St. Paul's (one-eighth time)
SAUGUS, St. John's (less than half-time)

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training who are interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.

CHELSEA, St. Luke's/San Lucas (Bilingual priest needed: English and Spanish)-Begin after Feb. 1, 2026
NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's (half-time)
SALEM, Grace Church (three quarter-time)

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev'd Debbie Phillips completes her tenure as Rector of Grace Church, Salem as of July 1, 2025

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BEDFORD, St. Paul's

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

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

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

NORWOOD, Grace Church (40 percent time)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

DORCHESTER, All Saints (full-time)

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Priests interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.

BURLINGTON, St. Mark's (half-time)

OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:

WABAN, Good Shepherd (part-time associate)

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

MARION, St. Gabriel's

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

SWANSEA, Christ Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church, (half-time)

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

Priests with interim training who are interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' (half-time)

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

Priests interested in being considered for any of these appointments should contact the Regional Canon.

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's *(one-eighth-time)*

NEW BEDFORD, St. Martin's *(one-quarter-time)*

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Eric Fialho concludes his ministry as rector of St. Gabriel's, Marion on July 6.

Next FYI

FYI is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the August issue is Monday, July 28, at noon. Email submissions to news@diomass.org.