



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street Boston, Massachusetts 02111 • 617-482-5800 • www.diomass.org

[Sample Assessment Letter sent May 2023]

The 2024 assessment for «Name», «City» will be «M_2024_Assessment», as calculated using the same formula passed by the Diocesan Convention last October, and which can be found on page 16 of the [2023 budget booklet](#).

Approximately half of our diocese's operating budget is funded via the support of congregations across eastern Massachusetts, and supports our common [Mission Strategy](#) to which are called as Disciples of Jesus, Seekers of Justice, and Protectors of Creation:

Disciples of Jesus

We gather to break bread in Jesus' name, praying to become the Body of Christ in the world. We come together across all ages—children, youth, adults, and elders—to teach one another about Jesus' redemptive way. We invite our neighbors to know Jesus, proclaiming the Good News by what we say and how we live.

Seekers of justice

We recognize the dignity and inherent worth of every person, and we work to build communities where all people find fairness, compassion, and the freedom to live fully. We persevere in resisting evil, not just our own sins but the deep, structural sins of racism and oppression perpetuated in our name. We turn to the Lord for the grace to create honest dialogue, lasting transformation, and true reconciliation.

Protectors of creation

We cherish the wondrous works of God and strive to protect the beauty and integrity of all living beings. We recognize that our greed and thoughtless consumption has placed us at odds with the needs of our created world. We respond to the crisis of our climate, using resources rightly and advocating for the restoration of a healthy planet.

When we follow Jesus intentionally, creating justice in our communities and living wisely on our earth, then we find joy and meaning in our lives. Our churches grow strong, with deep and mutual relationships among our members and our neighbors near and far. Our shared mission comes alive, as a bold witness to God's love for this broken and beautiful world.

Examples of the ministries which your assessment helps to enable includes our diocesan [youth programs](#), support to our congregations through [bishop's visits](#), our [regional canons](#), and our many [grant programs](#), [creation care](#), the [Racial Justice Commission](#), and much, much more. It is through our collective contributions of time, talent, and treasure, both at our local congregation level, through the diocese, beyond, to The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, that we help to bring God's vision of hope, justice, and grace to the world.

Assessment Relief to Congregations

Especially in the wake of the COVID pandemic, there are those congregations for which the proposed 2024 assessment as calculated by the assessment formula may have created changing circumstances that can create significant opportunities or undue hardships. To accommodate these circumstances, the Diocesan Council has established a process so that congregations can seek adjustments to their annual assessments. More details on this can be found on page 17 of the 2023 budget booklet, or by contacting the diocesan Treasurer's Office staff, parochialreports@diomass.org.

We continue to be thankful for the faithful witness of each of our congregations and for the good work that we accomplish together through our common ministry.

With much gratitude,

Theodore Ts'o, Treasurer

Deb Thomas,
Chief Financial Officer