

Council of Advice Meeting Wednesday 19 April, 2023 Online via Zoom

Points of Communication

- Opening Prayer and Dwelling in the word:
- As has become our custom, Colossians 3:12-17 was read. Phrases that spoke to us and seemed to be God's nudge to us as a Convocation were shared without discussion.

In the Convocation Cycle of Prayer we prayed especially for the Convocation Task Force on Racism, Reconciliation and Beloved Community, Mr. David Case, Chair.

- Council of Advice Items

Liaison Reports -it was noted that reports were not submitted in March when the recent Revival in Paris replaced our usual meeting. Reports will be collected as possible and added to the Minutes for this meeting. Going forward, the pattern for quarterly written reports will revert to January, March, June, September. Specific liaison concerns and requests were elicited and shared.

Bishop's Report-A detailed report from Bishop Mark had been sent prior to the meeting. There was little discussion of this report but important points include:

- The Revival in Paris 24 – 27 March 2023, yielded a net positive to Convocation balances. The spirit of the gathering was positive and joyful in ways he hopes we can build on and strengthen.
- Deep gratitude to Archdeacon Baer who was our emissary to the ecumenical office on the Church of Sweden side and who planned all the events on Monday, March 27, inaugurating our relationship of full communion with the Church of Sweden. Presiding Bishop Curry presided at this liturgy, and Archbishop Martin Modéus, the Archbishop of Uppsala, preached. Bishop Pierre Whalon, whose work began this coming together was also present.
- Bishop Mark is discussing the idea of a Convocation-wide Confirmation Service at the Cathedral in Paris with our clergy.
- Richard Easterling was instituted as the new Rector of Saint James's, Florence on April 16; the Cathedral in Paris continues with its search for a new dean; and the Vestry at Christ Church, Clermont-Ferrand are beginning to grapple with issues of financing a new priest and how that will affect the model of ministry they adopt in the future.
- As the geography of our membership imposes, Bishop Mark will continue to be on the move in the next months. Dates were noted for travel to Wiemar, Nuremberg, Frankfurt, Tbilisi, Geneva, New York, Palazzola near Rome, Vienna and Utrecht for the Anglican Summer Course. Surely he will be more than ready for vacation August 11- September 1!
- Regarding the Anglican Summer Course at the University of Utrecht, watch the Episcopal News Service for details. The course will be held from July 16 through 21. This is an exciting new initiative with instructors coming from across the Anglican Communion.

Convention Items-It was noted that a final survey requesting feedback from Convention and Festival of Gathering 2022 has still never been distributed. Suggestions were offered on how we can still gather helpful feedback and ways to assure this promptly at our next Conventions. Pippa Mahoney was appointed to serve as Council's representative on the planning committee for Convention 2023. Suggestions were requested for a possible theme for our Festival of Gathering in 2023, perhaps focusing on a topic for spiritual development in contrast to that of justice action as in 2022.

Lay Licenses –For now, Licenses for lay ministries should be sent directly to the Bishop's attention.

Webmaster/website updates- Updates, news, and corrections to the website should be directed to the attention of the Archdeacon and/or the Bishop. The future of the current website remains on hold, while the Convocation awaits technology support from D.F.M.S.

Weekend meetings- It was noted that expectations that clergy be present for events in the life of the wider Convocation at the expense of local congregation Sunday liturgies can present difficult challenges and choices. This year has been extraordinary for its number of milestone anniversaries in the Convocation and the arrival of important visitors. As in the past, efforts will be made for Council and Leadership meetings to allow return of clergy for Sunday services.

Heads of Ministry meetings in June – Facilitators have been selected for these meetings. In order for them to know us and our needs better, Dan Morrow has sent surveys he has found helpful. The Bishop will forward these documents to the facilitators. Ward Greenberg was appointed to work with the facilitators to help them orient their work with us, adapting a survey specific to our Convocation needs. It was suggested that Ward team up with a ministry leader who attended our meetings in Rome in order to have their input as well as that of the Council of Advice. It was also noted that the Heads of Ministry monthly check-in has gone a bit by the wayside. This effort may need better publicity and commitment.

- **Executive Session**

Archdeacon Walter Baer and Sophie Plé left the meeting for discussions of various, longstanding administrative needs in the Convocation Office, and possible paths forward to address these challenges and their financial implications over the medium and long term.

- **Diocesan Council Items**

The Council approved the revised 2023 Annual Budget of the Convocation. This includes the possible recruitment of a new staff position for Administrative Support in the Bishop's office. A second resolution was accepted which defines needs for legal counsel to assist in structuring and financing this position in the medium to long term.

- **Standing Committee Items**

Emmanuel Church, Geneva: Requested revision to the Statutes and Articles of Organisation. No vote was taken pending the Bishop's request for advice from the Chancellor of the D.F.M.S.

St. Michael's Church, Thuringia: Requested changes to their Statutes of Association were approved.

Consents to the elections of Bishops- Three requests for consents were acted upon.

Council Work Plan resulting from Convention Resolutions- It was decided that the Convocation should engage the model of TryTank with specific focus on Ministry with Refugees and Migrants.

Our meeting adjourned with all reciting the Grace as found in 2 Corinthians 13:14:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.