**Points of Communication from the Council of Advice**

**Zoom meeting Thursday April 18 2024 12 noon**

The Council of Advice and Convocation staff prayed together and meditated on the spiritual nudge of 1 John 3: 16-24 while Dwelling in the Word. Topics covered during the meeting included voting our consent to the proposed election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of West Texas and a review of our 2024 1st Quarter Financials. Considerable discussion focused on the process and specifics of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) between the Board of Foreign Parishes of the Episcopal Church and the Convocation regarding the purchase and administration of the apartment to house our Bishop. We were grateful for the presence of Nancy Treuhold from the Board of Foreign Parishes despite the time difference with New York.

**Actions taken:**

Council appointed a team comprising Denis and Ward to consult with our President, Lois Stuckenbruck, on the memorandum cited above as information is gathered by our lawyers and auditors regarding the potential financial impact of this process on the Convocation.

Council appointed Lois with signatory power for the Convocation once the MOA is finalized.

Council supported a proposed resolution from our delegation to General Convention. This resolution highlights the importance of the work of the Episcopal Migration Ministries.

**News from our Bishop:**

Bishop Mark continues to be on the move. He will be in the US for meetings of the House of Bishops, the Boards of Foreign Parishes for our churches in Florence and Rome, and to attend the ordination of Austin Rios as Bishop Coadjutor of California. Upon returning to Europe, Bishop Mark is scheduled to visit Ascension, Munich, and to meet again with the Vestry in Waterloo.

A new memorandum of understanding has been signed with Episcopal Relief and Development for grant funding for projects supporting refugees. These projects as an entirety are now titled: **2024 The Convocation Response to the Ukraine Conflict Refugee Crisis.**

Council of Advice members and Convocation Partners are reminded:

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 16 when written Liaison Reports will again be due. (The four reporting months are Feb., May, July, Nov.)**

**\*\*All heads of Ministry are requested to get their requests for the 2025 budget submitted to the Financial Committee asap. A reminder from Audrey is forthcoming.**

**Upcoming Events and Opportunities to publicize**

- **Digital ministry grants from the Convocation continue to be available** and are part of our annual Convocation budget. These specifically oriented requests for digital ministry support may be considered separately from other granting needs. Use the form available at this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCp3Agh1kRA5rZXQHHdsDRD7-Iz2qv-HgJHdEwOJrAxpDlxw/viewform>

- **Heads of Ministry Meetings in 2024**:

Please continue to save **June 13-15** for meetings to be held at **Hotel am Froschbächel in Bühl near Baden-Baden, Germany.** The meeting begins and ends with lunch.

**- COMB Spirituality retreat- 3-5 May, 2024: "How do I know it's God speaking?"** - Bookings via COMB are closed but places might still be reserved directly at the hotel.

For further information or questions please contact The Revd. Canon Dr Ali Gray at agray@tec-europe.org

**- Next Academy for Parish Leadership (APL) event: scheduled 24-26 May** at Schloss

Fürstenried, Munich, Germany. The topic has been set - “Healthy Congregations: Practical Tools for Congregational Vitality”. Registration details can be found at this link: https://mailchi.mp/tec-europe/cece-upcoming-spring-programs?e=8c1b4bfad1

- **Juniors and Youth Across Europe 2024: "Fellowship and Fun in Frankfurt" 9-12 May.**

All Convocation youth are invited to a weekend of fun, connection, and different ways to approach prayer. Juniors (10-13) and Youth (14-18) both invited. Registration page also at the above link.

- **Part-time staff opportunity**: Help us find the right person: a new Convocation-wide Coordinator of Ministry with Children and Youth Children. Details soon on our website. Now at tec-europe.org/conv

- **The Convocation website**: tec-europe.org is soon to be undergoing a major face-lift. Audrey Shankles is working with our partners in the Episcopal Church Offices in New York to update and make it more user-friendly. Bear with us when it is down and look forward to helpful changes.

At this moment, however, to find this document monthly, it is posted after each COA meeting at the beginning of the Council of Advice section under the Convocation heading.

https://www.tec-europe.org/convocation/the-council-of-advice/