

## Points of Communication from the Council of Advice

In person meeting Friday, February 23, 2024  
Sauerlach, Germany

This meeting was held during the Convocation Leaders Gathering from 22/02/24 to 24/02/24. Bishop Mark and the Council of Advice, together with leaders of the numerous commissions and committees of our convocation, met for community building, sharing of information, and establishing aspirational norms and covenants for the future working of our ministries together. We hope that we have progressed well along towards the goal set before the meetings to create systems that will “make our whole Convocation more joyfully responsive to God’s call in mission”.

Our time together was framed in prayer and worship, beginning with Dwelling in the Word. Mindfulness training followed as an entry into contemplative prayer and led by our Canon for Spiritual Development, Rev. Ali Gray.

The Council of Advice’s monthly meeting with Bishop Mark comprised only two hours of these meetings. The agenda and decisions included:

- A review of the Year End Financials for 2023 as presented by our treasurer, Denis de Mouillac
- Approving two grants from the Whalon Fund for the Creative Arts.
- Discussing notable concerns from the reports of our Liaison partners.
- Receiving and discussing concerns from the Bishop’s report
- Deep gratitude and farewell to Maleah Rios as our Convocation Digital Coordinator for the past several years. Maleah did much more than link us together technologically. Her loving and attentive presence in every meeting has been highly appreciated and was applauded by both the Council of Advice and all the Convocation leaders.
- Gratitude also for the service of Audrey Shankles as she takes on additional responsibilities in her part-time staff role in support of communications and planning.

Council of Advice members and Convocation Partners are reminded:

**Written Liaison Reports are due four times annually before Council meetings in February, May, July and November.**

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- **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-lz2qv-HgJHdEwOJrAxpDlxw/viewform>

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

Please continue to save **June 13-15** for meetings. Venue being sought.

- **Praying Lent - "Pray as you can, not as you can't".**

**Scheduled for 5 Wednesdays in Lent, 21, 28 Feb, 6, 13, 20 March**

Online 19.30- 21.00 CET [Zoom link:](#)

Our Canon for Spiritual Development, Rev. Ali Gray, has begun hosting 5 weekly Zoom sessions to help deepen our prayer lives. The sessions are relaxed, gentle and invitational, practicing centring prayer and journaling, the Examen, Lectio Divina, imaginative prayer and praying with art and poetry. Zoom gatherings last 90 minutes and will include time sharing our experiences- both struggles and joys, introduction to, and guided practice of each mode of prayer. We finish each weekly session with compline.

All are welcome, beginners and experts, for one session or every week. No booking required.

Further information, clarification or questions- [agray@tec-europe.org](mailto:agray@tec-europe.org)

- **COMB Spirituality retreat- 3-5 May, 2024: "How do I know it's God speaking?"** - A few places are left but all registration and payment must be in by 1 March.

- **COMB Discernment conference: "It is good for us to be here": Experiences of the Christ. 1-3 March, 2024 at Centre Culturel Saint Thomas, Strasbourg.** Leader: The Revd. Mark Barwick.

- **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 should be ready very soon. Watch the Convocation website or look out for CECE news being emailed by Audrey Shankles.

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

- **The Convocation website:** [tec-europe.org](http://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.