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

**Zoom meeting Thursday March 21, 2024 12noon**

Our monthly meeting was held following the established agenda pattern. Bishop Mark was travelling during most of the meeting but was able to join at the end for clarification of some points in his monthly report. The Council of Advice prayed together and also shared insights related to Psalm 85 using the pattern of Dwelling in the Word. Topics of discussion included voting our consent to the Bishop elections in Mississippi and Rochester, NY, and ideas about goals and intentions for our Leadership gatherings as we move forward. The June meeting now has a reserved venue – see below.

Other actions or information:

Affirming our covenant to the Episcopal Migration Ministries Rainbow Initiative.

Approving an emergency grant to Church of the Ascension, Munich.

Convention October 17-19 in Florence planning in progress with a theme of Spirituality and the Arts.

Gratitude to Rev. Chris Easthill who has been covering the role of Archdeacon during the sabbatical of Walter Baer.

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.**

**Next Council of Advice meetings scheduled on Zoom: April 18, May 16, both starting at noon**

**Upcoming Events and Opportunities**

Please publicize with your congregations and/or team members.

- **Digital ministry grants from the Convocation continue to 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 be reserved directly at the hotel.

This is a convocation sponsored retreat on the Monk's Mountain above Salzburg (Johannes-Schlößl der Pallottiner, Mönchsberg 24,5020 Salzburg,Austria). The retreat will be an opportunity to hear our excellent speaker Sr Kristina Frances SSM, to meet others from across the convocation, to rest and relax, and to make space in your life to encounter God.

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/