

# Points of Communication from the Council of Advice

Wednesday July 31, 2024 Zoom Meeting 12noon

**Council Members and our Liaison partners: Thank you all for your written Liaison Reports which will be attached to the official minutes for July. Next written reports will be requested before our November meeting.**

As has become custom, the Council of Advice and Convocation staff set our intentions together in prayer and the spiritual nudges we each discerned from the upcoming Gospel reading: John 6: 24-35.

We read through the Council of Advice norms in preparation for further discussion of consolidating these norms with those newly drafted for use in our Heads of Ministry gatherings. This will be reviewed at a future meeting.

## **Diocesan Council** topics:

- Proposed Budget – Thanks to the Finance Committee who have now met and approved the proposed Convocation budget for 2025 as previously prepared by Bishop Mark. Budget distributions reflect the current move into a period of renewal following the limitations of the pandemic. Requests from our Committees and Commissions are fully funded. This, with increases for clergy retreats and additional expenses for the annual Heads of Ministry and Convention gatherings, requires drawing from reserves that have accumulated during the past years of more limited programs. Council supports the budget as presented but advised the eventual need of a policy regarding drawing from reserves for general funding. An overall strategic review of our spending priorities is also envisioned.

- CCS Capital Campaign – Bishop Mark, Lois, and Ward have been meeting with the CCS fund raising consultancy group that is working with the Board of Foreign Parishes on a capital campaign. Funds collected will support the Convocation's ministry in Europe. Council and all members of the Convocation are encouraged to do all we can to support the BFP in this effort.

## **Standing Committee** topics:

-Written Liaison Reports – as noted above we are grateful for the written reports and news of the many activities and projects in our communities. Bishop Mark updated us on the plans in place for support of the parish of [All Saints, Waterloo, Belgium](#), as well as plans going forward for [Christ Church Clermont Ferrand](#) and their call for a new priest.

The [Racial Justice and Beloved Community Taskforce](#) has published a newsletter that delves into the nuances of becoming inclusive and welcoming communities. They are preparing a gallery of images for our upcoming Convention titled:

“Imagining Jesus”. All are invited to participate. The newsletter and invitation to submit images are attached. Please share widely.

-Report on General Convention – given by Archdeacon Walter Baer and Denis le Moullac. Walter emphasized the relative amiable and unified nature of proceedings. Denis was particularly pleased to make contact with members of our Diocese in Haiti. We were proud of Janet Day Strehlow’s active part in presenting and passing resolutions related to the situation in Israel and Gaza.

### **Executive Session Council of Advice Items:**

- Bishop’s Report and Matters Arising – The very good news is that on July 17, the lengthy process of purchasing an apartment and setting up an SCI (Société Civile Immobilière) as required by French law was accomplished. Affordable housing for the Convocation’s bishop is now secured into the future. Due to details of governing the SCI, Council agreed with Bishop Mark’s concern that our statutes need an amendment to separate the office of the bishop from the governance of the association of the Convocation. This hopefully can be accomplished at the next Assemblée Générale of the Association which will take place in October, during our Convention.

- Sabbatical Plans – Bishop Mark updated the Council regarding his plans for a sabbatical in the spring of 2025. Possible budgeting for this was suggested. At this point, it is not foreseen that an interim position will be required.

### **Other Business:**

The next meetings of the Council of Advice are scheduled for

**6<sup>th</sup> August** extra session with Andrew Kluetz, postulant Deacon, **2pm on Zoom**

**10<sup>th</sup> September** Council of Advice monthly meeting, **4pm on Zoom**

### **Upcoming Events/News/ Reminders**

Wishes to all for a happy and safe summer break.

- **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-lz2qv-HgJHdEwOJrAxpDlxw/viewform>