

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice

Friday, June 14, 2024

In-person meeting during Heads of Ministry meetings, Bühl, Germany

******Reminder for Council Members and our Liaison partners: Written Liaison Reports are due four times annually: before Council meetings in February, May, July and November.**

The June meeting was held during Convocation Heads of Ministry gatherings held from from 13-15 June. Bishop Mark and the Council of Advice, together with leaders of the numerous commissions and committees of the Convocation, met for community building, sharing of information, and confirming the norms and covenants that were drafted together during meetings in February. Consensus at the closing session was extremely positive regarding the progress that has been made towards the foundational goal of these gatherings. That is, as Bishop Mark has written: to create systems that will “make our whole Convocation more joyfully responsive to God’s call in mission”.

Our meetings were framed in prayer and worship. Additionally, this gathering included a full day of training led by Rev. Daniel Morrow, Rector of the Church of the Ascension, Munich, and Audrey Shankles, Convocation staff person for Communications. They guided us through a crash course introducing ideas and materials they had received during a much lengthier course over a prior two year period. Sessions covered a Life-Cycle Model of Congregational Development, Development of Trust in Congregations, Intercultural Competency and the Cycle of Planned Renegotiation in Congregational Development. The time was intense but filled with tools, and the beginning of useful skills for our continued efforts to live into God’s mission for us. More information about the College for Congregational Development can be found on this website: <https://www.cdcollege.org/>

The Council of Advice’s monthly meeting with Bishop Mark included the following topics and decisions:

- Continuing efforts to contract for further administrative support for the Convocation.
- Progress of exploration to find new software to support the extensive reporting requirements for the Episcopal Relief and Development Refugee grants.
- Progress of ongoing transactions in Paris as we purchase an apartment for the housing of our Bishop with the generous support of the Board of Foreign Parishes.
- A preview of some of the issues of specific interest to our Convocation as we send our deputation to the 81st General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky (June 23-28).
- Status of our proposed budget for 2025. Bishop Mark’s proposals have been submitted to the Finance Committee and will be reviewed by Council at a future meeting.

- Unanimous approvals of consent for two new bishops in the Episcopal Church: Julia E. Whitworth as Bishop of Massachusetts and Phil N. LaBelle as Bishop of Olympia

- A report by Bishop Mark on transitions within the Convocation and tentative scheduling of his expected sabbatical in the spring of 2025.

- Next meetings of the Council of Advice provisionally scheduled for

31 July 12-3pm on Zoom

11 September 12-3pm on Zoom

The Council of Advice sends warm farewell wishes to Rev. Alison Gray as she moves away from the Munich area and her role there as Priest Associate in the Church of the Ascension. We are relieved and grateful that she will be retaining her roles supporting the Convocation as the Canon for Spiritual Development and chair of COMB. Here is a link to her blog with her farewell sermon and other spiritual offerings from past and future months. Canon's blog: <https://goingdeeper101.wordpress.com>

Upcoming Events and News

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/1FAIpQLSfCp3Agh1kRA5rZXQHdsDRD7-lz2qv-HgJHdEwOJrAxpDlxw/viewform>

- **The Convocation website:** Our new website was previewed during the meetings in Bühl, but there remain a few glitches until roll out. Audrey Shankles continues her work with our partners in the Episcopal Church Offices in New York and hopes to have it ready to present during General Convention.

What is Culture?

Groups who adapt their behaviors in order to survive challenges, solve problems, express sentiment and define reality.

- Deep, Broad, Stable
- Learned
- Individuals perform them
- Only "in group" really understands.

Levels: people group, nations, organizations
churches, families
develop culture

Q-CONNECT



