

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)

Tuesday September 10, 2024 Zoom Meeting 16hr

Council Members and our Liaison partners:

Next written reports will be requested before our November meeting.

All Heads of Ministry:

You are reminded to submit your reports for Convention to the Convention Secretary, Rev. Richard Cole (convention_secretary@tec-europe.org) as soon as possible. Also, save the following dates for upcoming in-person gatherings of the Heads of Ministry

November 14-16, 2024 and June 5-7, 2025 Locations to be determined.

All Clergy, Heads of Ministry and Convention Delegates:

You are reminded to register soon for our upcoming Convention in Florence. You should have received the Call to Convention titled CECE/Call to Convention 2024 with registration links by email. If you have not received this, or have had difficulty with the registration, please contact your Council Liaison for help and guidance, or the Convention Secretary directly.

*****Notes from the 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 a bible reading chosen by our President. This month we read and discerned how we hear God calling us using Philippians 2:5-11.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, counted it not a prize to be equal to God, but made himself of no reputation, and took on him the form of a servant, and became like humankind, and was found in his appearance as a man.

He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. For this God has exalted him, and given him a name above all names, so that in the name of Jesus every knee will bow, both of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth, and so that all tongues will confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Diocesan Council Topics:

Presentation of amended 2025 budget and vote

Bishop Mark presented the budget with a few revisions as recommended following last month's meeting. This budget continues to require a draw on reserves that was

supported by the COA. The group voted their approval of this budget in their role as the Conseil (as required by the laws for our status as a French Association). This budget will be presented to the Assemblée Generale during the Oct. 5th Financial Town Hall.

CCS – Capital Campaign Update

This is underway but without any specific new developments. Members of the Board of Foreign Parishes will be in attendance at our upcoming Convention and a dinner has been scheduled with the Council of Advice when we will be able to discuss what role we can take in support of this endeavor.

Subcommittee to reevaluate the budget structure generally

A group will be appointed after Convention and after the 2025 budget goes into effect.

Convention update and Registration procedures

See the reminders above. Bishop Mark has had positive responses from four varied and excellent speakers for the Festival of Gathering. Brief bios of these speakers are added to the end of this document.

Resolution amending the statutes of the association to bring before the Convention

Because of the French SCI governing the recent acquisition of the apartment for the Bishop, amendments are necessary to our statutes. These were approved by the COA and will be presented for a vote during our upcoming Convention.

Formal appointment of a gérant of the new SCI

The COA voted to formally appoint our Convocation Treasurer, currently Denis Le Moullac, to this position.

Executive Session Council of Advice Items:

Bishop's Report and Matters Arising

Bishop Mark's report covered many details of the topics noted above.

In addition he welcomed and rejoiced in the appointment of The Reverend Jo Jan Vandehede as the new curate at All Saints' Church, Waterloo, Belgium. Rev. Vandehede will now lead this parish as we search for someone to take on the role of a bridge priest.

He thanked John Kilgore, now in the role of bridge priest at St. Paul's, Rome. The search has begun for a priest in charge. Christ Church, Clermont-Ferrand are planning to begin their search for a priest-in-charge in November as Bishop Catherine Roskam prepares to depart after Christmas.

Bishop Mark noted how blessed we have been by those who have come among us in these roles of bridge priests.

Our Bishop continues to keep an onerous schedule which requires much travel between the US and the numerous places in Europe where the Convocation plays a role.

Sabbatical Plans

Bishop Mark has been inquiring how funding for sabbaticals is supported in various US dioceses but came to no general conclusion.

Other Business:

Date of Next Meeting

At Convention in Florence, Thursday, October 17 at 9.00am

Upcoming Events/News/ Reminders

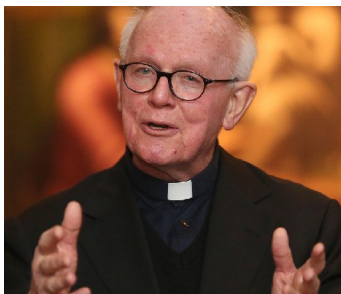
Looking forward to seeing many of you in Florence!!!

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>

The speakers for our Festival of Gathering on the topic of Spirituality and the Arts:



Friday, October 18: Opening speaker (Architecture)



[Msgr. Timothy Verdon](#)

[from Wikipedia:] Timothy Verdon is a [Canon](#) of [Santa Maria del Fiore](#), Florence's Cathedral Church. He is Director of the Office of [Sacred Art of the Archdiocese of Florence](#) and of the [Museo dell'Opera del Duomo](#) (Cathedral Museum), whose new installation he designed in 2012–15 with the architects [Adolfo Natalini](#), Marco Magni, and Piero Guicciardini.^{[3][4][5]}

He is also the director of Centre for Ecumenism, [Archdiocese of Florence](#)^[6] and Academic Director of the Ecumenical Center for Art and Spirituality, Mount Tabor, Barga.^[2]

Verdon is an author in Italian and English of over 100 books and articles on Christian Sacred Art^[7] and has been an Official Advisor to the Vatican Commission for Church Cultural Heritage. He has also been a Fellow of the [Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies](#) (Villa I Tatti),^{[8][3][1]} and for 20 years has taught in the Florence Program of [Stanford University](#).^[9]

From 2010 to 2015, he has curated museum art exhibitions in Florence, Seoul, New York, Washington D.C., and Turin. He regularly contributes to the cultural page of the [Osservatore](#)

	<p>Romano.^{[3][6][1]}</p> <p>Friday, October 18: Second Speaker (Music)</p>
	<p>George Corbett, Professor of Theology, School of Divinity, University of St. Andrews</p> <p>His proposed talk is entitled “Christian Perspectives on Creativity, Freedom and the Artist’s Vocation’, a talk based on a paper in the soon to be published Companion to Theology and the Arts. The talk will cover theoretical and practical perspectives of working with the composer Sir James MacMillan and the poet Michael Symmonds-Roberts, on setting up a series of collaborations between theologians and composers and poets, leading to new works of Christian art.</p>
	<p>Saturday, October 19: Morning Speaker (Visual Art)</p>
	<p>The Reverend Meredith Ward, Associate Rector for Pastoral Care, Saint Bartholomew’s Church, New York</p> <p>Meredith Ward received her Master of Divinity degree from Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary, where she was awarded the James Muilenberg Prize in Biblical Scholarship. She also received an M.A. in Art History from Columbia University and has a B.A. magna cum laude with honors in Art History and French from Tufts University. As an undergraduate, Meredith spent a year studying at the Institute of Art and Archaeology at Sorbonne University in Paris and is conversant in French.</p> <p>In addition to her pastoral ministries, Meredith is particularly interested in the intersection of art and spirituality and the ways in which art can be used as a medium for spiritual study, prayer, and contemplation. As a partner in an interfaith marriage, she is also committed to interreligious engagement and dialogue and has a passion for exploring the Jewish roots of Christianity. She is the founder and principal of Meredith Ward Fine Art, a gallery and art dealer in Manhattan.</p>
	<p>Saturday, October 19: Closing Speaker (Poetry)</p>



Scott Cairns

[from Wikipedia:] Scott Clifford Cairns (born 1954 in [Tacoma, Washington](#)) is an American [poet](#), memoirist, librettist, and essayist. Cairns is the author of eleven collections of poetry, one collection of translations of Christian mystics, one spiritual memoir (now translated into Greek and Romanian), a book-length essay on suffering (now translated into Greek), and co-edited *The Sacred Place* with Scott Olsen, an anthology of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. It won the inaugural [National Outdoor Book Award](#) (Outdoor Literature category) in 1997. He wrote the libretto for "The Martyrdom of Saint Polycarp", an oratorio composed by [JAC Redford](#), and the libretto for "A Melancholy Beauty", an oratorio composed by Georgi Andreev. Cairns's poems have appeared in journals including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Paris Review*, *The New Republic*, *Image*, and *Poetry*, and have been anthologized in *Upholding Mystery* (Oxford University Press, 1996), *Best Spiritual Writing* (Harper Collins, 1998 and 2000), and *Best American Spiritual Writing* (Houghton Mifflin, 2004, 2005, and 2006).

[Check out [this interview with Cairns](#) on Reading, Writing, and Responsibility, and [this interview](#) with Fare Forward about his first pilgrimage to Mount Athos]