

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)

Friday, November 15, 2024
Held during the Heads of Ministry (HOM) meeting,
Haus Sankt Ulrich, Augsburg. 15:30

All Heads of Ministry(HOM):

Mark calendars now for **June 4-7, 2025**, the following 2025 HOM. Location to be determined.

Other 2025 dates and notices to share with Congregations:

Sanctuary Online Mental Health and Christianity Course: An 8 week Tuesday midday Zoom course running Jan. 14 to March 25. This will be led by Rev. Canon Dr. Alison Gray, the Convocation's Canon for Spiritual Development. The course, which was offered to great acclaim at least twice before to groups including Convocation members is an interesting and engaging way to learn about mental illness and help equip us and our church communities to support people with mental health problems.

For further information and registration, use this qr code:



Spirituality Retreat: 16-18 May, 2025 at Eremo di Lecceto in Lastra a Signa, Florence.

Led by Rev. David Osbourne of the Iona Community, Scotland. Eremo di Lecceto is a historic destination that has served since the fifteenth century. Booking (with the possibility of arriving one day early and/or staying an extra day) will begin after convention.

Discernment Retreat: 14-16 November, 2025 in Strasbourg, France.

Speaker to be confirmed. Booking during summer 2025. All invited to discern their answer to "What is God Calling Me to Do?"

Digital ministry grants from the Convocation continue to be funded in our budget. Grants requested for next year submitted before Oct.15,2025 will be considered for immediate funding. These specifically oriented requests for digital

ministry support may be considered separately from other granting needs. Forms are on our website.

*****COA Meeting*****

The Council of Advice and Convocation staff considered the following topics during our November meeting.

Diocesan Council Topics:

Grants were approved as follows:

Exceptional Emergency Grant for Ascension, Munich: 5,000 Euro

Digital Ministry Grant for Ascension, Munich: 1500 Euro

Grant approved conditionally upon verification by Audrey Shankles that the specific equipment chosen will function as desired.

Task Force on Stewardship and Financial Justice

Planning and suggestions for appointments of this task force were made during the HOM meeting.

CCS and BFP Fundraising Campaign Update –

CCS has interviewed a group of potential donors, analysing how likely they would be to donate to an organisation with our profile. CCS has provided an initial report of their results. Unfortunately, the Board of Foreign Parishes is concerned about the very high cost of continuing with CCS and the process is stalled at the moment. Bishop Mark will keep us apprised of his ongoing efforts to move again on fund raising for the Convocation.

Standing Committee Matters

Written Liaison Reports, Matters arising

Bishop Mark will communicate with our Safeguarding Officer about the ongoing and updated lists of clergy and their contact information.

Bishop Consents

There were two votes.

Unanimous Consent to election of The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux as Bishop of West Missouri

Unanimous Consent of election of The Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas as Bishop Suffragan of West Texas

LGBTQIA+ Network Planning and discussion occurred during the HOM meeting. Bishop Mark will communicate with Convocation members who were recommended to develop this network.

Major Wars and Conflicts Statement

In response to Convention **Resolution 2024-4: Middle East, Ukraine and Other Conflicts as proposed by Mr. Ward Greenberg, The Rev. Sunny Hallanan and Ms. Janet Day-Strehlow**, A resolution to form an ad hoc committee was drafted and approved.

Council of Advice Matters

Bishop's Report and Matters Arising

Prior to the meeting Bishop Mark sent his written report, requesting total confidentiality. Most details of our discussions are thus not recorded here. Topics as follow:

Council's endorsement of a need for further legal advice as a result of our changed governance of the Convocation

A possible solution to our need for more Convocation Administrative Support.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance. With the support of DFMS we have engaged with a law firm to audit the entire Convocation's data management and protection practices, and to advise us on best-practice policies.

Refugee grants reporting.

Bishop Mark has postponed his sabbatical plans.

Other Business

Dates of Next Meetings:

Dec 16, Jan 13 11:30am; Feb.12, March 12 10:00;April: 7 11:30am; May 21 10:00am; June during HOM meetings 4-7 June.