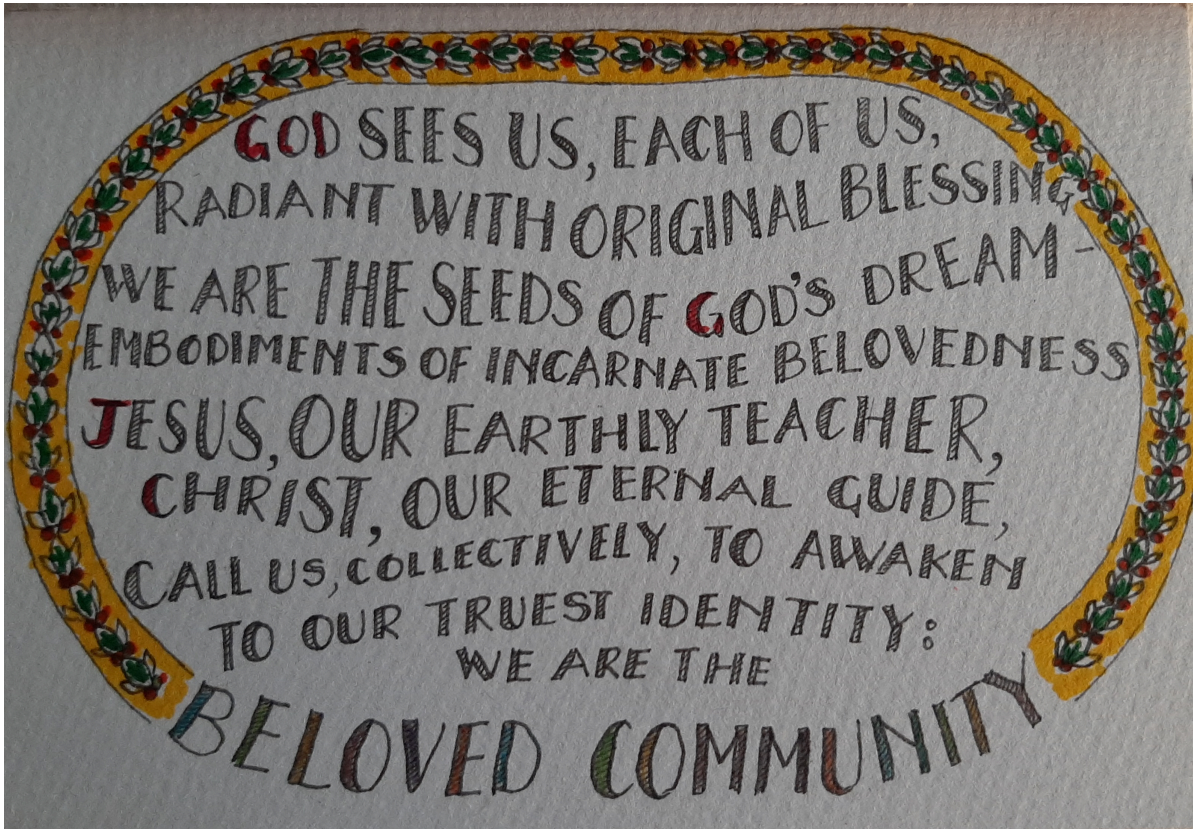


# Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)

Monday, January 13, 2025

Zoom 11:30-13:30



Thanks to Alison Wale, from Christ Church, Clermont-Ferrand, France for this card to wish you all a Happy New Year – 2025.

## All Heads of Ministry (HOM):

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

## Other 2025 dates and notices to share with Congregations:

### February

**APL | RJBC Presents: All Sinners Are Welcome:** Saturday 22 February online gathering. 10:00am – 12:00pm

Racial Justice Beloved Community, in partnership with EICS, presents a second session of their APL series "*All Sinners Are Welcome*", encouraging and teaching how to explore radical hospitality, self-reflection, and the pursuit of Beloved Community within the church. Further details: [RJBC APL](#)

## March

### **European Institute of Christian Studies (EICS) Lenten APL: Episcopal 101:**

March 11-April 1, weekly meetings on Tuesdays, 19:00-20:30

“Episcopal 101” is an online course meant to introduce newcomers or re-familiarize long-term members with core tenets, traditions and beliefs in the Episcopal Church. Each week will have a separate theme, and each requires individual registration. Join 1 or all as you wish!

#### **Registration links:**

[March 11: History](#)

[March 18: Polity and Mission](#)

[March 25: Liturgy and Sacraments](#)

[April 1: Anglican Temperament and Spirituality](#)

## May

### **Convocation Youth Event: May 29 - June 1 (Strasbourg, France)**

We warmly invite all Juniors (10-13) and Youth (14-18) to join this gathering. This year's theme will be "Together in Europe" with workshops led by members of the Racial Justice and Beloved Community Ministry in our Convocation : [Youth event detail](#)

**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) is **now open**.  
Booking link: <https://forms.gle/EpTKeeMkp5pZFbgy6>

## November

**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?”

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**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.

**Leaders around the Convocation will be asked to join Task Forces or Ad Hoc committees.** The following four groups are being formed to respond to the issues discussed during our Convention in October and proposed participants and will be contacted very soon. It is hoped that they can begin work as soon as possible.

**Task Force on Convocation Mission and Budget Priorities:**

*Purpose:* To discern and articulate the major elements of God's call in mission to the Convocation over the next ten years; review the Convocation's pattern of spending with respect to these priorities; and recommend changes in budget priorities.

**Task Force on Teaching Stewardship:**

*Purpose:* To teach about the theology of stewardship and provide resources for those who lead stewardship initiatives in our congregations.

**Task Force on LGBTQIA+ inclusion:**

*Purpose:* To gather a community of shared interest and practice among congregation-level leaders of LGBTQIA+ inclusion efforts; to develop a Convocation-wide story to share about our theological thinking about welcome and inclusion.

**Task Force on Peace and Justice**

*Purpose:* To teach about major questions of peace, war, and human displacement/migration, and to provide accessible summaries of the teachings of the Episcopal Church on these questions.

**Shout Out to Audrey Shankles**, our soon to be Canon for Programming and Communication, with gratitude for the first edition of the **Convocation Currents** newsletter distributed by email to those on our mailing list. If you haven't received it, please sign up for this and other Convocation newsletters at the following link on the new website: : <https://episcopaleurope.org/newsletter-signup/>

\*\*\*\*\***The COA Meeting**\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Diocesan Council Topics**

**Budget Update:**

As noted in December, a donor to The Board of Foreign Parishes has offered an annual gift of 100,000 Euros for three years in order to finance the sorely needed additional staffing of the Convocation in support of Programming and

Communication. The 2025 budget was thus reviewed and adjusted accordingly. This version will be submitted to the Finance Committee for fine tuning and then approved by Council.

### **Standing Committee Matters**

#### **Liaison matters were reported:**

Our Safeguarding Officer, Jocelyn Phelps, has been making substantial progress with her team towards both a flow-chart for dealing with Safeguarding issues in our parishes, and a sample audit document to use with Vestries to review Safeguarding procedures and readiness in our churches. Parish clergy are requested to look out for Jocelyn's requests for input and action on their part.

The Children and Youth Commission request our support in promoting their upcoming Youth Event in Strasbourg as listed above.

### **Council of Advice Matters**

#### **Bishop's Report and Matters Arising:**

Bishop Mark sent his written report prior to the meeting. Much of it outlined plans for the Task Forces above; details regarding transitions within the Convocation; and thanks to considerable work by Archdeacon Walter Baer with the Church Pension Fund, initiatives to provide a suite of new benefits for our ordained colleagues. Bishop Mark will inform clergy at their further upcoming retreat in February.

### **Other Business**

#### **Dates of Next Meetings:**

Feb.12 and March 12 10:00; April 7 11:30am; May 21 10:00am; June during HOM meetings 4-7 June.

Our meeting concluded with members praying the Grace together.