

**Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)**  
**Thursday June 5, 2025**  
**Haus Sankt Ullrich, Augsburg**  
**9.00 a.m. before Heads of Ministry plus Wardens and Treasurer Meetings**

East window of Chapel of St. Mary Tory, Bradford on Avon, UK. Designed by Mark Angus of Bath, installed 1999.

**Members of Council of Advice and your Liaison Partners:**

Remember that according to the new schedule, **written Liaison Reports are again requested before our July meeting.**



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

**July**

**Anglican Summer School: Anglicanism in European Perspective 20-27 July:** [Further info and sign up](#)

**September**

**Sanctuary Mental Health Online Course: September 9- November 4<sup>th</sup> 19hr-21:15**  
[Further info and sign up](#) There is a €20 booking fee, early bird discount available until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Youth Leaders Retreat**, September 19-21 in Strasbourg. [Further info and sign up](#)

**APL – Refugee Crisis:** What can we as parishes, missions and individuals do? What do we need to be aware of? What resources do we have? Face-to-face APL in Geneva, Switzerland. 19-20 September. More details coming from EICS.

**RJBC (Racial Justice and Beloved Community) 3<sup>rd</sup> online Forum, “Welcome, Respect and Dignity for all”,** September 27 10am-12noon.

**October**

**Convention and Festival of Gathering:** 16-18 October.

## November

**Discernment Retreat:** 14-16 November, St Thomas', Strasbourg. Speaker will be Canon Martyn Percy, Canon theologian of the convocation. [Info and registration](#)  
(Because this retreat is heavily subsidised by the convocation, we would like to ensure that the attendees are people who are facing a significant discernment question, usually around church leadership, lay or ordained. We ask that you don't publish the link, but share the link selectively.)

## December

**Heads of Ministry (HOM) meetings.** 4-6 Dec. Proposed dates. Location and details later.

## and into 2026

**CECE Spirituality Retreat:** 29-31 May, 2026, BadWinpfen, Germany. Booking will open after our Convention in October.

Keep abreast of events as they are scheduled on the Convocation Website. Bookmark and consult <https://episcopaleurope.org/> and [Events Gallery](#)

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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. Information and forms are on our website. [Grant request forms](#)

**Audrey Shankles**, Canon for Programming and Communication, is continually updating resources on our website and Convocation calendar. Stay informed and make sure you and those in your communities are on the Convocation email distribution. [Newsletter sign up](#)

The Episcopal Church Europe. [Website Home](#)

Heads of Committees and Commissions are encouraged to review the content in your assigned section and send Audrey suggested changes or additions. Consult pages relevant to you, use the planning center to post activity sign-ups and communicate with Audrey if you need further assistance. [ashankles@tec-europe.org](mailto:ashankles@tec-europe.org)

[Convocation website](#)

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

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

## Diocesan Council Topics

### Report from Finance Committee

– No official budget update will be presented until the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. It was acknowledged that we were late in requesting Budget requests. Bishop Mark again noted the necessity of taking a conservative approach given the current instability of markets, and the falling value of the \$US.

-Grant Requests- Waterloo had submitted a digital grant request. This was approved after discussion of setting some parameters for maximum grant totals despite our desire to allow for exceptions. Audrey will review the website explanation and make any updates needed.

### **Communications and Programming Report**

Audrey is pleased with the increasing use of the Planning Center functions and tools built into our new website. COMB is now independently setting up their events and registrations. Audrey has begun developing networking lists and data collection. She requests details of contact information when our church leadership changes.

### **Standing Committee Matters**

**Oral Liaison matters as needed:** No concerns were noted.

### **Council of Advice Matters**

**Bishop's Report and Matters Arising:** Bishop Mark shared his hopes and expectations for the upcoming meetings. These included Wardens and Treasurers as well as our recent cohort of members of the Council of Advice and Heads of Ministry. Although there have been online and in-person training and workshops for our members carrying these responsibilities, this is a new effort to engage them in Convocation Leadership.

Meeting Aims:

1. Importance of making Wardens aware that they are part of Convocation Leadership. Support them.
2. Warn our parish and mission leaders about risks they are taking especially with issues of GDPR (Subject Data Access Requests). These are costly – as much as 30,000€ per request.
3. Affirm that the Convocation with the help of our colleagues at DFMS (the Home Office of our church) is offering support developing compliance and facing any possible future challenges.

Although we didn't have representation from all of our Parishes and Missions, response was very positive including at least 11 wardens, 10 parochial clergy, 3 Treasurers. We were also grateful for the presence of two colleagues from DFMS, and of Linda Grenz, our Transition Officer, and her husband, Del Glover a newly elected member of the BFP (Board of Foreign Parishes).

**Dates of Next Meetings:** July 7, 2.00pm; September 17, 4.00pm; October meeting to be held during or day before Convention, date and time to be advised. HOM proposed date: December 4-6<sup>th</sup>. (Given this late date, the Finance Committee meeting and thus grant decisions may be postponed until January 2026.)

Our meeting concluded with members praying the Grace together.