

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)

Wednesday May 21, 2025

Zoom 10am - 12:30pm

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

All Heads of Ministry (HOM) and All Rectors and Wardens:

We hope you have now registered for the special **June 5-7, 2025**, HOM gathering in Augsburg, Germany. Rectors and Wardens from our Parishes are invited to this exceptional gathering. (COA members are invited to arrive for these meetings on June 4th.)

Members of Council of Advice and your Liaison Partners:

Thank you to all for your reports for this quarter. The COA is now reading and digesting the news and concerns shared. Future reporting months are July, November, and February.



Other 2025 dates and notices to share with Congregations:

May

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

June

HOM meetings in Augsburg: see note above.

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 4th 19hr-21:15

[Further info and sign up](#) There is a \$20 booking fee, early bird discount available until July 1st.

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

RJBC (Racial Justice and Beloved Community) 3rd 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.)

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](#)

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, has now begun her contract as Canon for Programming and Communication. Make sure you are on the Convocation email distribution. Please sign up and invite those in your ministries to sign up too. [Newsletter sign up](#)

Audrey continues to update our new website titled The Episcopal Church Europe. [Website Home](#) Heads of our various Committees and Commissions are encouraged to review the content in your assigned section and send Audrey suggested changes or additions. Audrey has recently met with Episcopal Church colleagues in New York. Website upgrades are moving ahead. Do 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

[Convocation website](#)

*****[The COA Meeting](#)*****

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

[Diocesan Council Topics](#)

Report from DFMS (Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, which is the missionary organisation and corporate body of the Episcopal Church).

Audrey Shankles and Bishop Mark reported briefly on their recent meetings and visit with DFMS. Audrey felt overwhelming support and encouragement from those she spoke with. The reorganization of DFMS following the election of our new Presiding Bishop is completed. There is still much staff uncertainty for those working with Episcopal Migration Ministries since the recent decision of Bishop Rowe to end TEC refugee resettlement grant agreements with the US government. [Press release from TEC](#)

Report from Finance Committee – the Committee has not met in the past month. Bishop Mark hopes that the committee can meet during the Augsburg meetings next month. Given the current instability of markets, and the falling value of the \$US, we will need to be very conservative in our funding expectations.

Communications and Programming Report

Audrey continues to update our new website. Data reviewing searches on our new site imply considerable interest in positions available in our various congregations. Perhaps volunteer needs can be highlighted.

DFMS provided computers for Audrey in her new role as Canon for Communications and Programming and will be providing another for Giulia Bonoldi, Chief Welcoming Officer of the CRGP (Convocation Refugee Grant Program).

Audrey is willing to set up a training session or workshop for parish communications officers.

Bishop Mark emphasised the need to restore the library of documents previously available. This is in progress as the old site is carefully reviewed. Efficiently “scrubbing” of the website has proven to be difficult.

Regarding the use of the Planning Center for event registration, credit card fees added by the Stripe software were discussed. Defining who should cover these fees will be clarified after some further consultations.

Standing Committee Matters

Oral Liaison matters as needed:

Clarification of COMC and Liaison matters - Missions will no longer have COA liaisons to avoid conflicting (or too many) messages with both COA and COMC liaisons. The chair of COMC, currently Audrey Jolivet-Habiby, will report to Council directly regarding Convocation Missions. She will be invited monthly to COA meetings, and hopefully can attend at least quarterly during meetings when written Liaison Reports are requested. A few aspects of our concerns about data and storage of parish archives were briefly noted. These topics will hopefully be raised during the upcoming meeting in Augsburg.

Consent to the Election of The Rev. Robert Price, Diocese of Dallas agreed unanimously.

Resolutions for Convention 2025, Rules for electing Council Officers Walter Baer prepared text for three resolutions to be put forward at Convention. These request changes in our Constitution or Canons regarding the election of members of Council of Advice as well as the Council's leadership structure going forward. The three resolutions were supported by this Council and will be presented in October.

Consent to the Ordination of Andrew Kluetz- Bishop Mark forwarded all of the supporting documentation required for this consent to Andrew's ordination, now planned for September. All members present voted their support.

Nürnberg Mission Visitation Report – Vote to release further funds.

Upon review of the report from the COMC, a vote approved the request for an additional 2,000€. It was suggested that they request an additional 1,000€ digital grant for website development. A letter from the President and Bishop will be sent.

Council of Advice Matters

Bishop's Report and Matters Arising: Bishop Mark sent his written report prior to the meeting. Topics included:

--Details of our Bishop's Calendar. In addition to scheduled meetings and commitments in their roles leading the Convocation, the additional visitations of Bishop Mariann Budde and TEC Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, added kilometres to their busy agendas. Then, there was the invitation to join Bishop Rowe and members of the Anglican Center in Rome to attend the recent inauguration of Pope Leo. Further visitations of Presiding Bishop Rowe are scheduled from June 7-16. These include his participation in the liturgy marking the agreement of full communion between ourselves and the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern (ELKB), some time in Geneva, and a visit to Paris at Trinity Sunday. The Council is grateful for these many ways that our leaders are making the Convocation and our missions more visible but did clarify that Bishop Mark plans to take some vacation time in August.

--Progress regarding the transitions in Rome, Waterloo, Clermont-Ferrand and Paris. We were excited to learn that Rome has come to the end of their search. The Reverend Jonathan Evans, currently rector of Saint Monica's Church in Naples, Florida, has been appointed as priest-in-charge at St. Paul's Within the Walls.

Processes are moving forward in the other three locations.

--Refugee Grant Program: Giulia Bonoldi and Bishop Mark met with Episcopal Relief and Development in New York including a virtual presentation to a large number of ER+D staff prepared and presented by Giulia. A new Memorandum of Understanding is underway. Levels of funding being discussed show a significant vote of confidence in the work of all the people directing these projects under Giulia's inspiring leadership.

--Personnel contracts and other Confidential topics: Given the complications of leading an organisation with significant financial support from the US across numerous differing nations in Europe, there are always a few places where we need to seek legal advice. This has become the usual in past months as we strive to keep within the legal requirements of the different places we serve at the same time as upholding the Canons of the Episcopal Church and our Convocation.

Dates of Next Meetings: June: during HOM meetings 4-7 June; July 7,14hr.

Our meeting concluded with members praying the Grace together.