

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)

Monday, July 7, 2025

Zoom meeting 14hr – 16:30

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



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 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](#)

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 info and sign up](#)

RJBC (Racial Justice and Beloved Community) 3rd online Forum, “Welcome, Respect and Dignity for all”, September 27 10am-12noon. [More info and sign up](#)

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.

(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. Please ask The Rev. Canon Ali Gray for more information.)

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, Bad Wimpfen, 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](#)

Sign up for the **Convocation Newsletter** at: <https://episcopaleurope.org/newsletter-signup/>

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](#)

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

Heads of Committees and Commissions are encouraged to review the content in your assigned section and send Audrey Shankles, our Canon for Communications and Programming, 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@episcopaleurope.org

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

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

Diocesan Council Topics

Report from Finance Committee

- No budget update but a repeated warning about our financial expectations needing to take into account the effects of the declining value of the \$US as a result of policies of the new US administration. Funds we receive from The Board of Foreign Parishes will be considerably less.
- Concerns with the revised Parochial Reporting forms that effect the basis of our assessment. This is especially problematic for our parishes who receive funds from endowments. Bishop Mark will be discussing our concern with the US church leaders.
- A short term committee was formed to look into issues and provide direction for the requested renewal of our agreement with the Specialised Mission of Santa Maria à Ferrano, Italy.

Communications and Programming Report

Audrey continues working with DFMS and has begun offering training for the use of Planning Center with parishes. Informal feedback from the June Leadership Summit (combined HOM with wardens and treasurers) has been positive. She is completing a survey to request feedback and evaluations in a unified manner. COMB is functioning as a test case as they create their page on our website. Audrey is exploring a data base of qualified professional translators in our midst. All groups are reminded to update contact information when our leadership teams change.

Convention and Festival of Gathering planning was touched on with regard to eliciting candidates to fill the gaps of current leaders who are completing their terms of office. Audrey will communicate with Richard Cole regarding the expected list of Nominees needed. She proposed distributing a survey soliciting interested candidates that would then provide a resource for the Nominating Committee to choose a slate of proposed candidates. This will be a live document that would close by the end of August.

The Convention and Festival of Gathering Committee also proposes a change to lengthen the scheduling of this event. After review of the revised schedule and resulting budgetary needs, the Council of Advice agreed to the changes. Following considerable discussion of the budget implications, the Council of Advice agreed that the Convention and Festival Committee can now set this year's Delegate's Registration Fee as they decide, up to a limit of €300. Bishop Mark is in the process of contacting guest speakers.

Standing Committee Matters

Liaison matters as needed: Gratitude was expressed to all who sent in their written Liaison Reports. The report from the Climate and Creation Care team was praised for its detailed suggestions for the upcoming Festival of Gathering. It is hoped that many of their ideas will be implemented in October.

The By-Laws submitted by St. Ninos were approved. Their Identity Statement was greatly appreciated.

Council of Advice Matters

Bishop's Report and Matters Arising: As has become his custom, Bishop Mark, sent his Confidential Report in Advance. Some of the matters reported have been covered above. Others remain confidential.

Dates of Next Meetings: September 17, 4.00pm; October meeting to be held during or on the day before Convention, date and time to be advised. HOM proposed date: December 4-6th. (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.