

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)
Wednesday October 15, 2025 17hr. on Convention Eve
Wilhelm-Kempff-Haus, Wiesbaden-Naurod, Germany

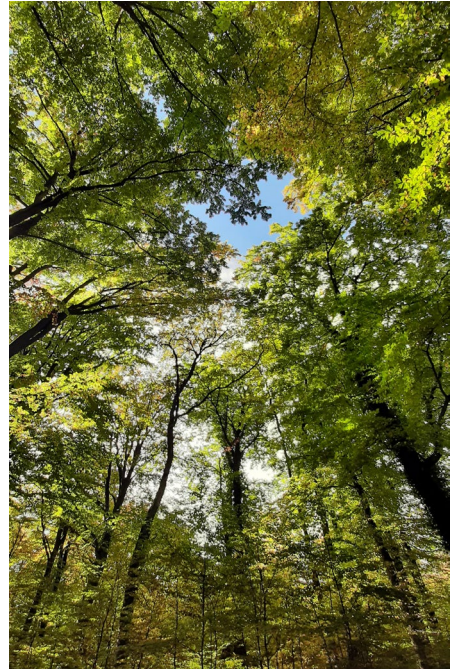
The blue sky of active hope – looking up from the center of the labyrinth at the conference center.

**Reminders of Upcoming events and
Actions requested:**

Audrey Shankles, our Canon for Programming and Communication, is now keeping our new website up to date as well as sending invitations to upcoming events to those who have signed up. Please consult the Convocation website with some frequency, especially the Calendar and Events page where details and links are easily accessed.

<https://episcopaleurope.org/calendar/>

Also be sure to sign up for the quarterly Convocation Newsletter and monthly program updates. <https://episcopaleurope.org/newsletter-signup/>



Heads of Ministry, Council of Advice and Convention Staff: The next scheduled meetings are set for December 4-6th In Lyon, France. Please reserve these dates. Details are coming soon after Convention. **Liaison Reports will be due.**

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

As we convened to review last Convention planning details as well as other issues for the Council of Advice. Bishop Mark opened our meeting with this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer:

*Almighty and everliving God,
source of all wisdom and understanding,
be present with those who take counsel
in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
for the renewal and mission of your Church.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.
Guide us to perceive what is right,
and grant us both the courage to pursue it
and the grace to accomplish it;*

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Following the established agenda format of our meetings as sent by our President, Lois Stuckenbruck, the following topics were considered.

Communications and Programming Report

1. Planning of the upcoming Heads of Ministry meetings to be held in Lyon, France. Review of the objectives and a relevant theme for these meetings. Audrey Shankles confirmed that a site has been reserved. She will be sending a Save the Date reminder soon after Convention. There is an agenda committee for this meeting who will try to meet in the coming days.

2. Convention 2026. If we follow our pattern of rotation amongst parishes, next year's meetings would be held in Rome. The Vestry and new rector at St. Paul's are excited about hosting then, especially as it will be the 150th anniversary of their founding. The challenge is finding a meeting location that meets our space and digital needs but is also within our budget capabilities. There were many ideas and suggestions of how to plan for this, but they need further information and consultation with those in Rome. Implications of the likely carbon footprint of this location were raised as we begin our focus on all that must change for the health of our planet. A rapid decision, however, was understood to be imperative in order to make necessary reservations at any site.

Standing Committee Matters

Liaison matters as needed: There were no oral reports by Council Liaisons. Audrey Jolivet-Habiby, in her capacity of the chair COMC, gave a brief update. The COMC have not yet sent out the questionnaire discussed in September but expect it to be ready soon. There will be good attendance from the Missions to the Convention and Festival. She mentioned only two missions that haven't sent any delegation to Convention.

Written Reports: The next written reports are requested before the upcoming HOM meetings in early December. Reporting months are: **February, May, July and November.**

Council of Advice Matters

Bishop's Report and Matters Arising:

Matters discussed in consultation with Bishop Mark were all confidential. They covered issues of staff contracts and concerns and a review of further legal documents to define governance of the Convocation within French law while also adhering to the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

During the month of November Bishop Mark will be in the US. He noted several preaching engagements and meetings with the Board of Foreign Parishes together with our Presiding Bishop, Sean. The BFP will be sponsoring several gatherings when it is hoped that funds

can be raised that will support the Convocation. The term used for these gatherings is "Friendraising".

Dates of Next Meetings:

No meeting in November.

December 4-6 during HOM meetings in Lyon. (Given this late date, the Finance Committee meeting and thus grant decisions may be postponed until January 2026.)

The meeting concluded with members praying the Grace together.

