

Points of Communication from the Council of Advice (COA)

Friday, December 5, 2025 14hr.

Held during Heads of Ministry Meetings Dec. 4-6
Valpré-Lyon, France

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. Both the Calendar/Events pages, and Convocation News are highly informative for information and details of Convocation activities.

[Calendar](#)
[News](#)

Also be sure to sign up for the quarterly Convocation Newsletter and monthly program updates.

[Newsletters](#)



A note regarding Convocation Heads of Ministry (HOM) meetings.

For the past several years, two annual in-person meetings have been scheduled for the COA in addition to meeting just before our annual Convention. These meetings include members of the COA, Convocation staff and leaders of both our missional ministries and canonical ministries (details again are available on the Episcopal Europe website: [Mission and Ministry](#)). Sessions create a time for leaders to network and learn about our colleagues' initiatives as well as brainstorming our future work together. The meetings in Lyon focussed on assessing how well we have met goals set in the resolutions of both the 2024 and 2025 Conventions and discussions of the need for fundraising support in our parishes and missions. Newly elected members of the Council of Advice were introduced and integrated as we worked to continue the weaving of our leaders into a dedicated and caring team. Other highlights of our time together were our times of Morning and Evening worship and the inclusion of a Litany of Affirmation formed by the Racial Justice and Beloved Community Ministry. The newly completed documentary jointly created by the Convocation and ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development) was a special moment. Further videos are planned to highlight projects in other churches who have been supporting refugees through the Refugee Grant Program.

[Documentary](#)

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

Our outgoing President, Lois Stuckenbruck, led the meeting which included newly elected members and the full Council as formed in 2024. Convocation staff, our Treasurer, and Audrey Jolivet-Habiby in her position as President of COMC (Committee on Mission Congregations) were also present.

As has become tradition, after opening with prayer, we set our hearts and minds Dwelling in the Word. The scripture chosen was Romans 13:11-14.

The Business followed reading of our Norms.

Communications and Programming Report

Audrey Shankles reported on communications activities since our last meeting. The just released video documentary mentioned above was highlighted. This was just the first of several. The next video will highlight the JNRC (Joel Nafuma Refugee Center) in Rome.

Audrey was in the US in November participating in the BFP (Board of Foreign Parishes) friendraising efforts in support of our Convocation along with Bishop Mark. She continues updating our website and working with our colleagues in New York to improve our communications systems.

Diocesan Council Items

This time in our agenda is dedicated to our need to direct general management of the Convocation, even though we are not officially a Diocese. This would be the time to review grant applications and other administrative functions. There were none for this meeting. In January we will be reviewing recommendations from the Finance Committee for 2026 grants.

Standing Committee Matters

- We received two requests for Consent to the election of Bishops. We abstained for the election of Shay Craig as Bishop of North Dakota due to a lack of information received about their election process.

Consent was unanimous for the election of Sarah Kathleen Fisher as Bishop of East Carolina.

-Thanks to all those who submitted their written Liaison Reports. These remain with the COA to protect any possible confidential information. In future a process for further communication of news and planned events will be possible. Currently Audrey Shankles can include articles and event announcements in the Convocation Currents notices. She has put further information into Slack.

- Topic suggestions for the 2026 Festival of Gathering included a focus on Children and Youth as that would follow our pattern of past years. This Commission is enthusiastic but

would prefer to wait until 2027 in order to prepare their input. A Spiritual Retreat, or theme of Spiritual Development met with much consensus. Watch this space`!

- The granting calendar as well as our general philosophy and objective strategy for grants was again reviewed, especially regarding grants for our mission congregations. A goal for 2026 will be to review and define the response to “What is our purpose?” for the grants provided, asking grantees to also answer “What is their purpose?”

- Expectations are to hold our next in-person gathering as a Leadership Retreat in Rome, (June 25-27) in conjunction with their anniversary celebrations. This gathering will include all parish rectors, wardens and perhaps treasurers depending on the topics chosen.

For our calendars: Liaison written Reports: Reporting months are: **February, May, July and November.**

Convening of the AGM of the Société Civile Immobilière AGM

Denis Le Moullac, in his role as delegated representative of the COA and acting as “gérant” convened this required annual AGM. The new Council members were introduced to another special role of our body – that in the process of acquiring the apartment in Paris for use of our Bishop, we now must function as a French SCI. Denis made a brief report and requested further legal advice about some of the details of overseeing the property. The COA agreed with this need and will act accordingly.

Council of Advice Matters

Bishop’s Report and Matters Arising: A confidential report was sent to the members of the COA. Topics have mostly either already been mentioned or involve confidential staffing details. In addition, at this point in our meeting we had to adjourn. One note especially for clergy is that Bishop Mark resolves to begin a new pattern of reserving Wednesdays for online “office hour” consultations.

Dates of Next Meetings in 2026:

January 21; 17 February; 18 March. All at 11am on Zoom.

The meeting concluded with members praying the Grace together and then rejoining the other Leaders for worship and dinner.

Wishing you all a very blessed continuation of the Advent season followed by much Christmas Joy.

A test of your attention – can you now identify the full titles:
COA, HOM, COMB, COMC, JNRC, SCI, ERD, BFP, AGM? Keep reading these documents and you will be a WIZ:-)

