

# POINTS OF COMMUNICATION COUNCIL OF ADVICE

21 January 2026 zoom meeting

“Grant, Almighty God, that in all times of trial and persecution, we might remain steadfast in faith and endurance, according to the example of your servant Fabian, who was faithful even unto death.”

*‘Collect for the Feast of St Fabien, the opening prayer for the January COA meeting’*

## Communications and Programming

Audrey Shankles, Canon for Programming and Communications, reminds us there are a myriad of programmes and events available for sign up on the Convocation website from youth events to spirituality retreats and much more. Please advise your church members of these opportunities and spread the word in your newsletters. Details can be found in an email sent to Church Leaders on 21 January and at: <https://episcopaleurope.org/calendar/>

The documentary on refugee ministry in Europe, specifically helping Ukrainian refugees in Wiesbaden, was created jointly by Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and the Convocation. It has been successfully distributed and viewed on several platforms, thus raising awareness of this important work. You can view the documentary here:

<https://episcopaleurope.org/ministry/crgp-documentary/>

## Commission on Mission Congregations (COMC) Report from Audrey-Jolivet-Habiby

The COMC offered rapid feedback to the Finance Committee to assist in the consideration of grants for 2026.

In February all missions will be requested to complete a detailed questionnaire. This will enable COMC and the Convocation leadership to better understand their individual needs in order to provide more targeted and sustained support.

A COMC led online meeting with mission leadership will take place in March, to enhance community building.

### Diocesan Council Topics

#### 2026 Grants

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Council of Advice (COA) approved the disbursement of €90,000 in grants to 12 parishes and missions, the largest amount dedicated to grants for many years. A total of €138,130 was requested and some difficult choices had to be made. The COA thanked the Finance Committee for their work. COA Liaisons will disseminate the detailed information to parishes and missions.

#### Digital Ministry Grants

Two digital ministry grants were awarded in full to the Church of the Ascension, Munich and Emmanuel Church, Geneva.

#### GDPR Questionnaire

Following on from the GDPR presentations at the Leadership Summit/Heads of Ministry meeting last June, congregation leaders will be receiving a GDPR questionnaire in February. This essential work will help to identify activities our congregations engage in that have implications for GDPR (including, for example, storage of data and photos, and streaming services) and the related GDPR risks within each parish/mission to enable the Convocation to best support our congregations. An online 1-2 hour workshop will be open to all church communities to assist with the

completion of the questionnaire. Many parishes/missions have been asking for guidance in this crucial area, and to further best practice all are encouraged to complete this questionnaire as fully as possible and in a timely manner.

### Standing Committee Topics

The committee approved a revision of the Constitution and Bylaws of All Saints, Waterloo.

### Council of Advice Matters

Bishop's Report – Certain 2026 budget lines will need to be adjusted for various reasons. The revised budget will be brought before COA next month. Other topics discussed included confidential personnel matters and the disbursement of grants as reported above under diocesan matters.

The COA meeting closed with all saying The Grace.

### Other Dates and Matters of Note

Parishes, Ministry Heads and COA liaisons are reminded that written liaison reports are requested for the COA meeting which will be held on 23 February.

Parish leaders are encouraged to publicise the Convocation website calendar page ( <https://episcopaleurope.org/calendar/> ) so that church members can become familiar with programming opportunities and events. Registration and information is easily accessible to all.