Points of Communication: Council of Advice Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2023,
Wilhelm Kempf Haus, Wiesbaden, 9am-12noon

Apologies from Ward Greenberg and Rev. Jean Dumond Chavanne who were not able to get to Wiesbaden at this time. The rest of this term's Council were present.

As has become tradition for Council meetings we began with prayers both for our Convocation Convention and upcoming Festival of Gathering, but also noting the imperative of continual prayer for the situation unfolding in Palestine and Gaza.

We read from scripture (Dwelling in the Word). This month’s passage was 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10. Without discussion, thoughts heard through this passage included the imperative of our own striving to be living examples of our faith, continually sending our words of thanks and prayer to those in our circles and the importance of unconditional welcome to all those we encounter.

Business aspects of the meeting were attended to: acknowledging our norms, assuring quorum, review and approval of September minutes and today’s agenda as needed.

Diocesan Council Items
- Update on appointment of Program and Administrative Manager

The culmination of a first step of the long process of trying to find a suitable candidate and writing a letter of agreement that is acceptable within the labor laws of our hosting nations should soon be announced. Details remain confidential until all has been cleared with consulting lawyers and the proposed candidate. Hopefully an announcement will be made within weeks. Unfortunately, the current proposed solution to our need for further Admin support will only be for support of Guilia Bonoldi, our chief Welcoming Officer, in her responsibilities resulting from overseeing the ERD grants. Further Convocation Administrative support will continue to be a concern.

- An emergency grant for one of our Mission Congregations was discussed and recommendations were made.

Council of Advice Items
- Bishop’s Report and Matters Arising-

Deep gratitude and praise were expressed to Guilia Bonoldi for her direction of our project of refugee grants with the support and funding from Episcopal Relief and Development. This program of grants and guidance has now helped more than eight thousand refugees and nearly two hundred households. Our grants have been made not only to Convocation congregations, but to churches of the Church of England, the Episcopal Diocese of Cyprus and the Middle East, and the Old Catholic Church in Slovakia. Further partnerships are envisaged with the Anglican Church in Portugal.

Thanks and appreciation were also expressed to Sunny Hallanan for her work on Council during the past two years and most recently for her help and support of the early October “pilgrimage of listening” visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to Tbilisi, Georgia. Thoma Lipartiani, lay leader of our mission to Georgia, Rev. Sunny Hallinan, and
Bishop Mark Edington were present for this visit which included a service of the mission congregation, St. Nino’s. Click the link below for the Church Times’ review of the Archbishop’s visit.

There was some discussion of our financing and how this functions with the mission of the Board of Foreign Parishes. In our efforts to clarify aspects of our legal position in France, we have now received the Mission Statement of the Board of Foreign Parishes. This was distributed to Council members.

- Report from Safeguarding Task Force-

A document from Jocelyn Phelps, our Safeguarding Officer, was discussed and reviewed. This document lists the currently available modules on the Praesidium platform used for safeguarding training throughout the Episcopal Church. It includes a table with recommended modules to be followed for some of the varying roles of our church leaders (clergy, staff, Sunday School and Youth leaders, Vestry members, those working with vulnerable adults in our refugee support projects or other programs). The Council of Advice affirmed the work done by Jocelyn and her task force and recommends that she send it out to all of our congregations and commissions.

It was agreed that in her position as an elected leader of the Convocation, Jocelyn has authority to take this and further safeguarding advisory decisions without prior approval of the Council of Advice.

Standing Committee
- Consent to the Election of Kristin Uffelman White as Bishop of Southern Ohio-

This was unanimously passed by the six members present. Lois will contact Ward and Dumond for their votes.

Any Other Business

- Feedback regarding Convention planning-

Council congratulated and thanked the Convention planning team for their fabulous job of preparing our upcoming Convention and Festival of Gathering. Council members with longer connections to the Convocation reminded us of a Handbook for Convention planning that used to be passed to parishes. Although some of our traditions have changed, this would still be a helpful guide to catch a few of the missing details that were only communicated at the last minute this year. It is hoped that information can be distributed much earlier in future.

- Date of Next Meeting: Per Zoom, TBD by new Council at end of Convention

As it began, our meeting ended in prayer as we said the grace together.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always
Some upcoming Dates and Events
(not discussed at the Council Meeting but for your information. Watch the Convocation website for further details)

**Spirituality retreat.** This is planned to be 3rd-5th May 2024 at the Johannesschlössl (Pallottiner Haus) in Salzburg, speaker: Sr. Kristina Frances
Booking will open in the New Year.

**Discernment conference** will be held in Strasbourg March 1-3rd 2024, to be led by The Revd. Mark Barwick, from Strasbourg, booking will open after convention. The COMB anticipate running a discernment conference once per year for all exploring formal lay and ordained ministries within the church.

**Next Academy for Parish Leadership** (APL) event scheduled 24-26 May at Schloss Fürstenried in Germany. The topic and leaders to be announced later.

**Youth Leaders Retreat** scheduled (10-12 November 2023) in Munich.