



A Pastoral Address to the People of God of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

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Bishop in charge and Suffragan to the Presiding Bishop

October 14, 2010

Celebrating Mission 2006 — Now What?

Dear People of God,

The canon law of The Episcopal Church requires bishops to make an annual Address to their conventions and synods. Two years ago, I decided not to read my annual Address to the 2008 Waterloo Convention of the Convocation. The “Transformed By Stories” method, applied to the Convention as “Telling Our Stories,” seemed to preclude the usual lengthy talk. (My Convention Addresses when read last about forty-five minutes.) Instead, I issued a Pastoral Letter in the form of an Address, to be made available in all our congregations after Convention. As this continues to be quite popular (!), I am repeating for the third year this way of addressing the delegates, by addressing all of you.

As always, I am not requiring that your clergy read this to you (for which they are doubtless thankful). Instead, I am directing that this be made widely available to all our over 4,000 members of the churches of the Convocation. Thank you very much for taking the time to read it.

If you feel so inclined, I would very much welcome your comments. Please write me care of the Convocation, 23 avenue George V, 75008 Paris France, or else email at bishop@tec-europe.org, I promise to reply!

Last year we celebrated “150 Years of Mission in Europe.” It was a great convention in Geneva, at Emmanuel Church, one of the Episcopal Church’s crown jewels. Looking back into our history, we saw how deep and rich it is, this missionary endeavor we call the Convocation. Earlier this year, George Battrick, longtime leader in Ascension, Munich, as well as the Convocation, informed me that there is a real possibility that St. John’s, Dresden, Germany, one of our former parishes that closed during the last World War, still has property that belongs to us. As it was confiscated after the war by East Germany, the building having suffered fatal damage in the terrible firebombing of that city, the law requires the restoration of such properties since the reunification of Germany, whose twentieth anniversary we celebrate this year.

Another reminder of our past is a newspaper clipping that George came across from 1910, announcing that the Convocation of American Churches in Europe was holding its annual convention at Christ Church, Lucerne, Switzerland, which we had built in 1880 for the Old Catholics, who still use it. At that convention were delegates from our Church of the Holy Spirit, Nice, among others. One hundred years later here we are in Nice, meeting with the descendants of Holy Spirit, which amalgamated with the English Church of the Trinity to form what is now Holy Trinity Anglican/Episcopal Church, Nice, our hosts. We receive and seat a delegate from that congregation every year, and we also send financial support to Holy Trinity every year, because of this shared history.

You should know that Holy Spirit Church was located right across the street from Holy Trinity. So it made a great deal of sense to amalgamate the two, and sell off our building. That happened in 1971. The *Église Réformée* bought the building and use it to this day. The funds from that sale became the corpus of the Nice Fund. The then-Presiding Bishop, John Hines, one of the greats, stipulated that the Board of Foreign Parishes would manage this fund, and that the income from this fund would go to support (a) a fulltime Episcopal priest’s ministry in Nice, (b) an Episcopal mission on the French Riviera (la Côte d’Azur), and (c) the ministry of the Convocation.

As we have at present a Concordat with the Church of England’s Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe that prohibits duplicating mission in a given city, the Convocation will never again plant a church or employ a priest in or near Nice. The Board of Foreign Parishes has always given the annual proceeds of the Nice Fund to the Convocation at least since I have been Bishop in charge, and this year’s 2011 budget reflects that. You should know that I routinely attend the biannual meetings of the Board as a member *ex officio*. Members of the Boards of St. James and St. Paul’s also sit on it. Presently Mr. Frederick Reinhardt presides over the Board of Foreign Parishes, and its members are always invited to attend and participate in our conventions.

Bishop's Report

I report to you that I have preached and celebrated in our parishes and missions 27 times, meaning (besides the Cathedral) 24 trips away from Paris. Since October 2010, I have confirmed and received 70 people, including 2 into the Church of England, acting as assisting Bishop in the Diocese in Europe. Grace Church, Florensac, had their first confirmations ever on October 3. (More, more!) On November 1, I ordained Lester Mark Barwick to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate, and on June 5, I ordained Mark to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood. I also conducted the religious marriage of Mark and Corinna Kreutz on October 9. I also celebrated another marriage in July and presided at a funeral of a Cathedral parishioner as well.

Besides the usual trips to the United States for meetings of the House of Bishops, Province II bishops, the Boards, I also made two trips to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. The first, in March, was at the request of the Presiding Bishop, who was concerned that the impending visit of the Archbishop of Southern Africa to that country not be without a francophone Episcopal Bishop. Since Bishop Zaché Duracin had asked me right after the quake to take responsibility for organizing international support for rebuilding the Cathedral in Port-au-Prince (I couldn't say no), I went again in late July to ascertain progress. Several visionary members of the Cathedral and Convocation have joined me and my wife Melinda to form Partners With Haiti (see partnerswithhaiti.info), and they are developing innovative fun ways to contribute toward this great multi-year project, which will require a great deal of cooperation across the Episcopal Church to realize.

We have said goodbye to five priests. The Rev. Dr. Michael Vono has been elected Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, which encompasses New Mexico and the southern tip of Texas. It will be a great privilege to serve as one of his three co-consecrators on October 22 in Albuquerque. Fr. Michael leaves behind an extraordinary legacy at St. Paul's-Within-the-Walls, Rome. When he arrived eighteen years ago, the parish was reeling from clergy misconduct and years of neglect. Today it is thriving in every sense, including having birthed a second congregation, the Latin American Ministry, whose attendance outstrips that of the Anglophone congregation, and the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, the only daytime refugee center in the Eternal City. When the Presiding Bishop visited St. James, Florence last year on Easter Sunday 2009 to close their centenary celebration, she insisted that she go to spend a day at the refugee center. Bishop Katharine was absolutely delighted, she said later. (And oh yes, she loved Florence too.)

Speaking of Florence, I instituted the Rev. Mark Dunnam as Rector of that great parish on January 24, 2010, officially welcoming him and his wife Dottie to the Convocation and delegating to him the oversight of that parish on my behalf. They're already doing great new things together!

The Rev. Kempton Baldrige, after ten years as Rector of All Saints, Waterloo, Belgium, resigned that position to become the first chaplain to commercial river shipping for the Seamen's Church Institute. This American partner of the Ministry to Seafarers trusted our friend to begin this ministry, and he has already logged thousands of miles on river barges. He and Isabel now reside in Paducah, Kentucky. All Saints, under Kempton's guidance, undertook the amazing feat of buying a

building from the Swedish Lutheran Church, where they hosted our 2008 convention. Now they are hard at work, having gone from no building to the extraordinary facility they now own.

Kempton also served on the Commission on Ministry of the Baptized (COMB) for his entire ministry with us, chairing it for the past four years. His enthusiasm for youth ministry kept that flame alive through difficult moments, and his impassioned advocacy led to improving the ordination process.

The Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan served extremely well as a professionally-trained Interim Rector of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Wiesbaden. (She also serves on the Commission on Ministry of the Baptized, a.k.a COMB). She now serves as Interim Rector of All Saints during their search process. (I am not only the Bishop but also the deployment officer of the Convocation. In other words, I help congregations with search processes, as well as approving their choice of priest.)

In this regard it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Rev. Anthony Litwinski, whom I will institute as Rector of St. Augustine of Canterbury, on November 7. He comes to us from St. James, Kamuela, Hawai'i. We also want to welcome his wife, the Rev. Jana Litwinski, who is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Jonathan Huyck left the Cathedral with Annie and little Benjamin to become Rector of Grace Church, Providence, Rhode Island, one of the grand old New England parishes. We watched him grow over five years into the stature of that ministry, under the supervision of Dean Zachary Fleetwood. We hope the search process for a new Canon Pastor will bear equally excellent results as the last one.

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson has accepted a call as Assistant Rector, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Saverna Park, Maryland. He reports that Sophie his wife and their three children are doing well, as is he. The Bishop of Maryland has accepted his Letters Dimissory.

The Rev. Joanne Dauphin, Deacon at the Cathedral, officially retired on June 13. She has set the standard for vocational Deacons for the Convocation, in her steadfastness, kindness, and willingness to reach out beyond the church's walls. Although she has retired from active ministry, Joanne is still representing me very effectively as ecumenical officer in France, meeting with the Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue group, the Reuilly Contact Group, and others. Participants routinely compliment me on her work among them. I'd like to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant (*diakona*)," but she's not really done yet!

One other clergy change is the birth of Jacob Maßmann to Alexander Maßmann and the Rev. Jennifer Adams-Maßmann, the second baby born to a priest and her husband in the Convocation (the first was Nicholas Hubbard).

Last but definitely not least, the Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin left to become senior associate at St. Mark's, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I know the city of Rome will miss Bill and his wife Carmela, who had an unprecedented two terms as director of the American Academy of the Arts in that city. The European Institute of Christian

Studies will also miss him a great deal. Bill is presently a finalist for Bishop of Western New York. That election is scheduled for November 22, and I commend that process to your prayers.

The Rev. Val Littman is now with us officially as the Vicar of Grace Church, Florensac, a flourishing congregation in the Languedoc region of France.

Also with us are clergy licensed in the Convocation: the Revs. Mark Letters, presently from Copenhagen; Sarah Motley Fischer of Geneva; Anthony Jewiss of France, and of course, our own Bishop Jeffery and Anne Rowthorn, who need no license to be among us, or introduction, for that matter.

And let me introduce to you, if you don't already know him, the Rt Revd Richard Garrard, sometime Bishop of Penrith in the Diocese of Carlisle, director of the Anglican Centre in Rome (2001-2003), and now Interim Rector of St. Paul's-Within-the-Walls, Rome. Bishop Dick was licensed as a bishop in the Convocation when he assumed duties at the Centre on November 1, 2001 (same day I started, incidentally).

We have several Postulants for Holy Orders: Gianfranco Giancaterino, of the Pescara Mission in Italy; Christopher Easthill, Ascension, Munich; Elizabeth Ewing, All Saints, Waterloo; Mercedes Tutasig, Latin American Ministry, Rome, and Ginger Strickland, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Paris. All are making progress, and I expect there will be more ordinations next year. I also made Fanny Belanger of St. Marc's, Grenoble, a Postulant for Orders in The Episcopal Church, a "joint venture," so to speak, with the Diocese in Europe. Bruce Rienstra, All Saints, Waterloo, has also been taken under COMB's wing for discernment for ordained ministry. Dennis Krumlauf has been a Candidate for priesthood for some time, and now that he has retired from the military chaplaincy, he is now pursuing his vocation.

As you know, parishes that stimulate people to explore calls to ordained ministry are also helping all their members discern God's call upon their lives—a real sign of health! This is also a validation of the effectiveness of COMB's Vocational Discernment Conference, which about 90 people have attended so far, and which resumes this fall.

I was a co-consecrator of the Rt. Rev. Matthias Ring, new Bishop of the Old Catholic Church of Germany, on March 19 in Karlsruhe, who succeeded our good friend Bishop Joachim Vobbe. He sends his apostolic greetings to us gathered here in Convention.

After I finished my six-year term on the Standing Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori first assigned me to the Executive Council's Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investments, which oversees how the Church votes its proxies at shareholder meetings. (I wondered why me of all people for this, until I remembered that I had served as economic justice officer for all three dioceses I had ministered in.) Then she asked me this year to accept appointment to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. This Commission is charged with many things, among others "to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for same-sex blessings." (General Convention 2009 resolution C056). As I have pressed the House of Bishops for years to develop

official teaching on this matter, this seemed a logical choice as well. I signified to Bishop Katharine that I wish to resign from the Committee on Corporate Responsibility, but she declined to accept my resignation. Fortunately, it has no more face-to-face meetings...

The *Association d'Entraide aux Minorités d'Orient* that I preside works with a task force for Iraqi religious minorities of the Immigration and Foreign Affairs Ministries of the Republic of France that has managed to bring so far 1240 people out of Iraq and Syria to France, where they have been welcomed under the French tradition of asylum. Others, both French and Iraqi, do the hard work. My contribution is mainly to manage the working group itself. As the need has tragically continued despite elections in Iraq, we are applying for permission to bring another 1,000 people to safety. Christians have borne the brunt of the fallout from sectarian violence, caught as they are between other factions, and making opportunistic targets for criminals as well. We continue to expect most of these people to return to Iraq to rebuild their nation, once stability returns. But when will that be?

The Francophone Network of the Anglican Communion continues the work of developing resources in French for the four million francophone Anglicans. Among other projects is a plan to have a genuine French Anglican Bible made available around the world. Our Presiding Bishop continues to be a most able spokesperson for the Network at the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion. You may not know that the Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan has served as *Secrétaire* to the Network for eleven years.

I continue to participate in occasional meetings of the Management Group of the Network for Interfaith Concerns, which is an official network that helps develop resources for interreligious dialogue around the Anglican Communion. I was also a participant in March in the first Christian-Muslim Summit at the Washington National Cathedral, helping to write the "Interreligious Call to Commitment and Action" that calls upon religious leaders of both faiths to take active roles in public diplomacy when formal diplomatic efforts have stalled or failed. This grew from my invitation to Washington's Bishop John Chane to join me in visiting Iran in 2006. He certainly took the ball and ran with it!

Life in the Convocation

As a Convocation, we affirm together our commitment to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by worship, word and example to people of all nationalities and denominations. This is the official vision for our life together.

The 2005 Convention, meeting in Frankfurt, decided to forge ahead with what they named Mission 2006, a five-year plan to strengthen our capacities and resources for (in order of priority) work with and among young people, developing training and nurture of all members of the Convocation, launching new mission congregations, growing in spiritual depth and excellence in worship, sharpening our work in social and environmental justice, and leadership development.

Last year, I charged the Strategic Implementation Committee, appointed to oversee the implementation of Mission 2006, to develop a plan for celebrating Mission 2006's

accomplishments, in order not only to give thanks but also to look ahead to developing a new strategic plan. The members are Ms. Cindy d'Alimonte, chair, the Rev. Luk de Volder, and Ms. Helena Mbele-mbong, ably supported by Canon Jere Skipper. They have done an excellent job, creating along the way their own instruments for better community life, especially the Convocation Handbook, a Directory updated every year (make your corrections now!), and surveys, made available to every congregation in hard copy and on our website at tec-europe.org/Forms and Documents.

We owe a special word of thanks to Cindy d'Alimonte, who chaired this committee (and the Finance Committee) with her usual *stile perfetto*, combining a great smile and gentle manner with a firm hand on the tiller. Fr. Luk brought his amazing gifts of analysis, and Helena her ability to pay attention to detail as well as the Big Picture. Canon Jere as always ran alongside to keep the enterprise supported and connected with me. They made a small but highly effective team. When this convention ends, so will this Committee.

Now the final masterpiece of the Implementation Committee is the design of the 2010 Convention, which is the plan they have developed so that all delegates can contribute to deepening our awareness of and gratitude for the amount of excellent work done over the past five years by a large number of people. We are a different Convocation, much more like a diocese than ever before in the way we function. And let us always remember that the purpose of a diocese — just like the ministry of a Bishop — is to meet the needs of its congregations that they cannot meet for themselves. In this regard, Mission 2006 has been a success.

In particular, I would like to highlight:

Youth: We detached the Youth Across Europe committee from the Commission on Ministry of the Baptized by amending our canons, creating an independent Youth Commission with seven members, ably chaired by Jane Döbler of Christ-the-King, Frankfurt. Retreats for formation of youth leaders are being held, as well as very effective Youth Across Europe retreats, and more is being planned.

Training and Nurture: The European Institute of Christian Studies (EICS) is now working with the Episcopal Church Center and the Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Christian Education to make available to the whole church the *Transformed By Stories Method*. It has the great benefit of working in any language and any culture, as well as being otherwise fully adaptable to the needs of the congregation or diocese. Felicity Handford has chaired what is now EICS ever since the evening of my election, when she and Bishop Jeffery first outlined to me the vision for an education department. For a long time, Felicity was a "voice crying the wilderness." The deployment of so many resources now available to the congregations through EICS is a testimony to her strong leadership, tenaciousness, and large vision. After nine years, she has asked to step down at this time, and I am appointing Lora Bernabei, another great leader of the Convocation, to succeed her.

COMB has produced four Vocational Discernment Conferences using a professional facilitator, which has participants, no matter who they are or where they come from, to ask themselves, "What is God asking me to do?" This is not about

ordination, since the Order of the Laity do the real work of the Church, with the help of the ordained, and every single person has a part to play in God's design for the future of creation. I have been thrilled to hear from literally dozens of people that the Conference was a transformational moment in their lives. How about you, Gentle Reader? The cost is minimal, and everyone should go at some point. Speak to your priest!

The Spirituality Conference, the brainchild of outgoing President of Council, the Rev. Clair Ullmann, had its meeting in March, and continues to bear much good fruit.

Building Missions: We have welcomed last year the people of Grace Church, Florensac, France, into our midst, with their Vicar, the Rev. Val Littman. During the life of Mission 2006, we also launched Resurrection, Orvieto, and seen the growth of a mission in Pescara, Italy (do visit www.anglicani.it). We have also seen growth in some older missions: St. Columban's, Karlsruhe, our oldest mission; St. Boniface, Augsburg, and St. James the Less, Nürnberg; and the Rennes ministry. In 2008 the Waterloo Convention welcomed as a full-fledged ninth parish of the Convocation Christ Church, Royat, in the presence of the Presiding Bishop. We also closed during those years Good Shepherd, Darmstadt, Holy Trinity, Ingolstadt, la Mission St. Martin, Bordeaux, and severed our connection with St. Victor, Toulon.

I will say more about this at the end of this Address...

The Rev. Jennifer Adams-Maßmann, assisting at Christ-the-King, Frankfurt, continues to work with All Saints military congregation, Heidelberg, to investigate the future of that congregation after the Army base closes. It has been in existence since 1945 as an Episcopal congregation, and has often sent delegates to Convention, as is their right.

After a brilliant ministry, the Rt. Rev. George Packard resigned as Suffragan Bishop of the Armed Forces (the title is now Bishop for Federal Ministries, combining as it does prison and hospital chaplains as well as military chaplains, some 1600 in all). In June the Rt. Rev. Jay Magness was consecrated to succeed him, and I look forward to working with him as I did with Bishop Packard to help oversee this congregation, as well as St. Alban's, Ramstein, and the chaplaincy at Stuttgart. Bishop Packard, as did Bishop Charles Keyser before him, insisted that these congregations be considered as part of the Convocation. All Episcopal military chaplains are automatically licensed in the Convocation, incidentally, so they can always be asked to lead services without first asking me.

Since November 2008 the *Mission Épiscopale de Rennes* has had a worship center, funded by grants from the Convocation, Christ Church, Royat, and Emmanuel Church. The Rt. Rev. Venuste Mutiganda, retired bishop of Butare diocese, Rwanda, who lives in Strasbourg, has been advising them. Because of unforeseen relocations of several members of that ministry, we have terminated the lease on that space, as it had become rapidly inconvenient. We are in discussions with the community to discern the direction of future ministry. It has always been more of a social ministry to refugees from various African nations and poor French people than a true worshipping community, despite everyone's best efforts.

Spirituality and Worship: Exciting worship initiatives continue to develop in the Convocation these days. The Cathedral continues to offer “Sundays At Six”, eucharistic worship in a variety of relaxed styles and with a bilingual emphasis. Liturgies in French are offered from time to time. The *Ækumenische Kirchentag* or “ecumenical Church-day” in Munich was a great opportunity for worshipping with Old Catholics and German Lutherans, as well as mingling with 250,000 Christians celebrating ministry in Germany, including Anglicans and Episcopalians. A tip of the miter to the Rev. Dorothee Hahn of Munich, Augsburg and Nürnberg, who as president of the Munich-area ecumenical association or ACK had enormous responsibilities to get the Kirchentag organized.

All four bilingual Prayer Books — French, Spanish, German and Italian — continue to sell well. As they have been used for years now, there is need for second editions, as the translations have been tested. This is a normal process with all such translated liturgies. The point we often miss is that liturgy is not written, it is *oral*. No telling how it feels until you try it out over some years. There are funds saved up that are earmarked to further this process.

Social and environmental justice: Every congregation, as well as the Convocation itself, exists to serve the needs of all the people we encounter, not just a certain nationality or language. There are no more chaplaincies here, other than military.

Besides the Iraq refugee program, the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center and the Frankfurt Deportee Ministry continue to offer solace and direct aid to refugees and deportees in their respective countries. The homeless continue to be fed in Paris and Florence. Many congregations send people and funds outside themselves, including to Romania, Bulgaria, and Portugal, not to mention outside Europe.

Haiti has become a major new focus of the Convocation since the massive destruction of the earthquake in January 2010, as I have already pointed out.

Leadership and visioning: A lot of progress has occurred in this area over the past five years.

Each major commission has also produced or substantially revised guidelines for its particular area. COMB, now chaired by Mr. Rainer Ullmann with the Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan as Secretary, has new clear guidelines for ordination and licensed ministries, and has developed mentoring and continuing education criteria. Each ordinand has a “shepherd” to see him or her through the process. Besides also assigning each ordinand an academic adviser, EICS is producing a tremendous amount of materials relating to formation for licensed ministries, the Diaconate and the Priesthood, as well as the innovative *Transformed By Stories Method* that I mentioned above.

Do not neglect to follow exactly our revised Child Protection Guidelines, which are absolutely mandatory for all congregations. Review them in the Convocation Handbook or at <http://tec-europe.org/FormsNDocs.htm>

This year, EICS launched its Academy for Parish Leadership, which provides training for new vestry members, treasurers, and other lay leaders. The next Academy

for Parish Leadership, on Year-round Stewardship, will be held in Munich at the Schloss Furstenreid on April 8-10. (Contact eics.convocation@gmail.com for more information.)

As with all Convocation-wide events, the budget provides substantial underwriting for all attendees. Never let money be an obstacle to discernment or formation.

Last but not least, we are now officially the **Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe**. Please note that all documents and websites *need to reflect* this important change.

Mission 2000, Mission 2006, and now — ?

The major task of this Convention in Nice is to celebrate the progress we made during the five years of Mission 2006. I hope and expect that Convention will pass a resolution asking me to appoint a new committee to design process for a new strategic plan for the next years that the 2011 Convention in Florence can approve.

We have done well when we have had a plan to follow. As the old saw goes, failing to plan is planning to fail. Since 1999, the Convocation has been guided by a strategic plan. Mission 2000 was visionary, calling for the creation of a diocese out of the Convocation, a new Anglican Province of Europe, foreign-language missions, youth ministry across the Convocation, new worship materials, and an education department. You can see that some of these came to pass, while others have not yet. The idea of becoming a diocese was put off so that the Convocation could focus on electing its own Bishop in charge, which happened on June 23, 2001. I pledged to support and implement Mission 2000 as the expressed will of the Convocation.

Mission 2006 grew out of local conversations I initiated across Europe in 2002 to determine whether we wanted to become a diocese after all. Discussions with the other three Anglican dioceses in Europe in 2003 and 2004 showed we are not ready as a whole to form a new independent province out of the four jurisdictions. Nevertheless, as I have continued to argue, that needs to be the long-term goal.

The work of Mission 2006 in essence has been to put “legs” under Mission 2000. In other words, to build up the capacity of the Convocation to work as a cohesive body under its Bishop in charge to meet for its congregations those needs they cannot meet for themselves. Obviously, these needs depend on the size and history of the congregation. The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity is the largest congregation in any Anglican jurisdiction in Europe. Resurrection, Orvieto, is the smallest in the Convocation. Clearly, they have vastly different needs for the Convocation to meet. But not one can stand alone.

I note that with Fr. Michael’s departure, and Fr. Kempton’s before him, all the clergy in place when I was elected bishop have moved on to new ministries where their gifts, honed here, have been recognized and utilized. Search processes are well underway in Waterloo and Rome to find worthy successors for them. Ordination, clergy deployment, nurture, and care are major functions of the Convocation, and we are, I dare say, doing well. And being well served by a corps of clergy new to the

Convocation who come from all over the Anglican Communion as well as the United States.

The Council of Advice has continued to grow ever more into a clear-minded leadership circle with a tradition passed on of serving as an effective governing body as well as genuine advisors to the Bishop who can tell me the truth— which is the primary function of a standing committee in our polity. A great deal of credit goes to the Councils of the past and present, as well as their presidents, for the development of the Convocation.

I have already mentioned the growth of COMB and EICS contributing to the stronger position we are in today. Youth work is proceeding apace. Moreover, Convocation finances are in the best shape ever, in terms of controls and reporting. We owe Andrea d'Agosto, our Treasurer, and the two assistant treasurers who have worked with her, formerly Nancy Janin and now Denis Le Moullac, a huge debt of gratitude. The other members of the Finance Committee of the Council, chaired by Cindy d'Alimonte in recent years, have also given their all to get us to where we are today. And we must give thanks for the six years of loyal service as bookkeeper to Mme Irène Gonçalves, who has taken her leave. I have hired Sophie Plé, an experienced financial consultant, to take her place.

In particular for this Convention...

Besides evaluating and celebrating our progress, I expect that we will decide to continue to be guided by a strategic plan. Certainly the work of identifying and celebrating the changes in the Convocation should help set us up for another planning, approval, and implementation process. As with Mission 2006, the basic principle is that all must have input and therefore all must have buy-in. The people of the Convocation “owned” Mission 2006, which is why it succeeded. You must “own” the next plan as well. So let us continue to work together toward that end next year, and beyond with Mission 20xx...

On another note, the Canons Committee of the Council presented recommended changes to our canons to the Council. The Committee has been chaired recently by myself, and otherwise consists of people much more schooled in the law than I: The Rev. Dr. Hanns Engelhardt, Christopher Koch of Emmanuel Church, Maria Grazia de Rizzo of Rome, the Rev. Steve Smith of Munich, and Michèle Spike of Florence. (Also, I have appointed Michèle to serve as my chancellor, a post vacant since Peter Handford's passing.)

The Council accepted the committee's recommendations to amend the canons in several areas. The first has to do with Title IV of the General Canons dealing with clergy discipline. The General Convention completely revamped it in 2009, changing from a root metaphor of military justice to the disciplinary procedures of professional associations of accountants, lawyers, and doctors. As you know, our own canons and congregational bylaws must follow exactly the canons of the General Convention. So one major change will be to implement the new Title IV in our own canons. The proposed resolution is actually a standard form being adopted around the Church as all the dioceses get ready to learn how to use this new system. (I will attend a class for

bishops next March to learn more myself.) It becomes effective on 1 July, 2011. Until then we still have our Ecclesiastical Court presided by Dr. Engelhardt, if need be.

Another major change is a new canon implementing standards for parish bylaws (mission congregations have had a form to follow for five years now). In a Stateside diocese the usual procedure is for a diocese to implement in its canons model bylaws to which all parish bylaws must adhere. Because we operate under five different national laws and cultures concerning the legal existence of churches, we cannot implement this simple solution. So the Canons Committee considered over a number of years how to harmonize parish bylaws so that they would be legally valid both under canon law and secular law. The key provision of the proposed canon is that all bylaws, whatever their national form, must clearly and without reservation accede to the authority of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church as well as the Constitution and Canons of the Convocation.

Parishes have for decades been required to submit any change of bylaw for approval to Bishop and Council before implementing it. As part of this new process, the Council and I have already approved the revamping of the bylaws of Emmanuel Church, Geneva, and St. Paul's, Rome. We will work in the most efficient way possible with all other congregations to ensure smooth transitions to legally valid governing documents.

Why do this? Two reasons. First, the national government enforces parish bylaws, and punishes congregations with invalid or illegal bylaws. We had a case where a court in a lawsuit against one of our parishes invalidated an agreement signed by the rector, though the bylaws of that parish gave him power to do so. Since that bylaw contradicted the canons of The Episcopal Church, which specify that only Vestries can bind the parish to mortgages and other such encumbrances, the court ruled that the agreement was invalid and dismissed the lawsuit. We won't always be that lucky...

Second, if a parish's bylaws are invalid, any parishioner can challenge its decisions as being illegal. Since the clergy and I as Bishop have sworn to "conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of this Church", failure to correct invalid bylaws or to act upon them also could be actionable.

Bottom line: fix the bylaws. It will be relatively painless compared to what could happen if we don't. Call it the last effort of Mission 2006.

Other proposed changes to our canons enshrine EICS in the canons, and clarify financing of delegates to Convention.

Of course, Convention will approve a budget for 2011, and hold the legally-necessary *assemblée générale* of the 1901 Association of the Convocation (the non-profit corporation that all the congregations belong to, that allows us to exist in law in Europe).

In Closing—

As you can see, Gentle Reader, the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe continues to grow and develop. We will need to consider Mission 20xx next—where will it lead us?

This is my tenth convention as Bishop. I note that I have become the longest-serving Bishop in charge in our history, surpassing Bishop Stephen Bayne (but only in length of service). What a wonderful adventure it continues to be! Yet there are two things that I want to share with you as concerns, as we consider where the Spirit is leading us next.

The most important part of my job is to keep, cast, and develop the vision of the Convocation. Over the past nine years, I have made as my own the vision of my predecessor, Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn. We are a missionary enterprise at the edge of The Episcopal Church, geographically and otherwise. We continue to incarnate the ancient mission of our church beyond the national borders of the United States of America, along with the other eleven dioceses outside the U.S., including Haiti, the largest diocese of the “American church.” That mission is to help people develop their own Anglican-Episcopal Church in their nation.

The specific goals of Mission 2000 to become a diocese and then join the other three to become a new province of the Anglican Communion were valid concepts then. Today I see them in a different context. What is most important is to grasp and ever hold fast the common work that the Spirit of the living God has given us to do, “to love and serve God as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord,” sharing in God’s mission in Europe and beyond. We must strain to emphasize this in every congregation of ours, as well as with our English, Spanish and Portuguese partners, and our full-communication partners of the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht. I do not see a future province of the Communion composed of four Anglican-Episcopal dioceses, but rather a United Church of Europe, eventually including the Scandinavian Lutheran churches as well as the Old Catholic Churches, forming a great effective cloud of witnesses to the risen Jesus.

Pope Benedict XVI has called for the re-evangelization of Europe. I agree that a fresh new approach to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and living it out as faithful witnesses and actors is absolutely necessary in Europe. So many people in Europe, whether natives or transplants, remind me of God’s description of the people of Nineveh, “who do not know their right hand from their left” (Jonah 4:11) when it comes to spirituality.

The Pontiff also knows that the Roman Catholic Church cannot do it alone.

I take some comfort in reading the words of Archbishop Karl Koch, the new head of the Pontifical Council on the Promotion of Christian Unity. In his 2004 book, *Kirche ohne Zukunft? Plädoyer für neue Wege des Glaubensvermittlung* (which my weak German translates as “Churches without a future? Plea for new ways of passing on the faith”), he wrote:

In the Europe of tomorrow, the churches, even more than up to now, will lose even more credibility if they are not ready to take serious and decisive steps in the direction of reuniting different denominations. In the new Europe, Christians will be held responsible ecumenically, and if outdated confessional quarrels continue unabated, there will be, as happened three hundred years ago, a new wave of secularization and atheism for which the churches will be guilty. This is why there is no room for “re-confessionalizing,” and even less for confessional proselytism. On the contrary, the hour has come and now is to show proof of real ecumenism in communicating the Faith in Europe.

At this Convention, which is actually a synod of the church in Europe, we Episcopalians are practicing synodality. In other words, we govern ourselves locally or nationally through synods chaired by bishops, as do all Anglicans. So do the Old Catholics, and the Scandinavian Lutherans. A United Church of Anglican-Episcopalians, Old Catholics and Lutherans, with common structures that honor and effectively enlist our local diversities in the service of God’s universal mission, would go a long way to the project of communicating in fresh, new, and authentic ways the “faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). And that faith makes the difference between life and death, both literally and figuratively. As Archbishop Koch points out, we shall all be judged together, both by others and by God.

To return back to right now, the Convocation must continue to advocate for itself, as we have over the past three General Conventions, for a status like that of a missionary diocese. This will not only construct our ability to join in the larger European project, but only help us continue to build strength and confidence, as we have seen since the last time we gathered in Nice in 1999.

To drop down another order of magnitude, as it were, this raises the question of how we start new congregations. I have rejoiced in the achievements of all our mission congregations, and seen one new parish established. I have had my heart torn open when I have had to close mission congregations. In order to flourish, we must continue to grow.

There is ample, ample opportunity for the Episcopal way of being Christian to take root both in Anglophone and other linguistic and national cultures. “It’s raining soup,” as they say, “all we need’s the bowl.” But this will continue to limp along until we develop a strong consensus that starting new congregations successfully is an integral part of strengthening each of our congregations as well as the whole Convocation. I think we are almost there. But that raises the issue with which I and all our leaders have wrestled since 2001: how to develop “the bowl” — effective structures to ensure maximum possible success in planting new congregations, no matter what their country or language.

To this end in particular, among other duties, I dedicate myself over the next years to come.

Together, let us as the Convocation re-affirm together our commitment to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by worship, word and example to people of all nationalities and denominations.

Please join me in the following prayer:

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name 'P. Whalon' in a cursive script.

Pierre Whalon, Bishop in charge and Suffragan to the Presiding Bishop