



SUMMARY OF COUNCIL OF ADVICE MEETINGS

October, December 2008
January 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. What We Have Been Doing
2. Clergy
3. Updates
4. Finance
5. What's Coming up on the Agenda

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Ordination

- We all joyfully celebrated the ordination of Richard Cole as Deacon on Saturday, 24 January 2009 at Emmanuel Church, Geneva.

Youth Commission

- A Youth Commission has been formed under COMB. The Bishop has appointed Jane Doeblner as Chair. Other members include the Rev. Jonathan Huyck, Samantha Sieber and Phil Trumper.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Child Protection Guidelines

- The parishes and missions are aware of the guidelines and are implementing them as appropriate in each situation. We still need specific reporting requirements and procedures for each country in the Convocation (please look at the Convocation Handbook for copies of the guidelines).

Anglican formation in a native language.

- Council is continuing to look at various possibilities in providing Anglican formation in a native language

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Convocation Website

- Standards for clergy letters of agreement are on the Convocation website
- The Convocation handbook is now on the website and can be downloaded and printed.
- Council of Advice is “populating” its web page and encourages the other Committees to do the same
- we will establish a separate MDG page on the Convocation website and encourage all parishes to contribute stories and ideas
- We will soon have a Convocation Calendar, so that everyone can see what events are coming up

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Review of 2008 Waterloo Convention

- We enjoyed telling our stories
- We really enjoyed the Saturday night dancing
- We received good publicity and were featured in the January issue of Episcopal Life

2009 Geneva Convention

- The 2009 Convention will be held from 15-18 October at Emmanuel Church, Geneva.
- The Bishop will be working with Secretary of Convention on the theme, 150 years Convocation: In 1859 the Church of Holy Trinity as a parish and the Convocation came to be. We should celebrate.
- The Council also addressed the issue of non-paying guests at Convention. The Secretary will send out information in advance so that there are no surprises.

CLERGY

Mutual Ministry Valuations

- Council and the Bishop took part in a Mutual Ministry Valuation in Paris (see separate report). There are discussions of instituting MMVs with all clergy and Bud+Holland (retiring from the Episcopal Church Center on 1 April) is willing to work with us on this on an on-going basis. He will be coming to Europe to work with a few of our parishes in May 2009.

Pastoral care of new clergy and families:

- It was resolved that the Council of Advice would reflect on its role in pastoral care of clergy and clergy families and work on answers to the questions raised in the Clergy Spouse document compiled in Munich. During search processes, we need to make it clearer what it means to move to Europe (transition, cost of living,). This has to be taken up as a spiritual and practical element. A sub-committee will look at this in closer detail, make an analysis of actual practices, best practice, and make proposals to Council of Advice.

OUR PARISHES

Search Process Update

- Searches are going on in Munich, Florence and Wiesbaden
- The Bishop has proposed that we review the search process and its effectiveness

Mission Churches

- We will work with the Munich mission churches to help them get semi-independent
- The Rennes mission church has found a place to worship and now needs to furnish it
- Council approved changes in the By-Laws for Emmanuel (Geneva) and St. Paul's (Rome). We expect other parishes to be reviewing their By-Laws.
- Emmanuel Church, Geneva: we approved the use of the Relevant Year Average Interbank Rate
- Wiesbaden – there is movement on the physical building issues. The Bishop is continuing to pursue.

FINANCE

- Denis le Moullac, our Assistant Treasurer, has been added as a signator for all bank accounts.
- **Audit v. Review**
Parishes need an annual review of actions and processes. We have been charged with looking at a way parishes can go through an internal review instead of an expensive audit each time. The Finance Committee has looked at guidelines from the Diocese of New York with the view of adapting them for us.

COMING UP ON THE AGENDA

Review and Revisiting of Issues Related to Grant-Making

- We need to look at vision of next 5 years and deal with grants based on larger picture.

Convention Resolutions

- We will be looking at resolutions made over the past 10 years at Convocation Conventions to make sure that we have followed through with them as appropriate. We will look particularly at those involving Youth and what directly affects Council.

Companion Diocese

- The Strategic Implementation Committee will take a look at this. One goal might be to present this at Convention and discern what we have to offer, what we want out of this, what our congregations will be excited about. We need to do it well, not necessarily fast.

