



Reports to the 2019 Convention

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- Reports from Recipients of Grants from the 2018 Convention
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Representative to the Sixty-Third United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- Report of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund



**THE CONVOCATION OF EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN EUROPE
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY TO THE BAPTIZED**

The Commission on the Ministry to the Baptized serves to guide and empower all baptized people in discerning their ministries.

2019 COMB – Annual Report – Geneva, Switzerland

The Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized serves to guide and empower all baptized people in discerning their ministries. The members of COMB are invited to serve by the Bishop and we advise the Bishop in matters of discernment. We meet with and mentor those who are progressing along the path to lay and ordained ministry.

COMB presently consists of the following members:

The Rt. Rev. Mark Edington
The Rev. Mark Barwick
The Rev. Deacon Richard Cole
The Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan, Secretary
The Rev. Dorothee Hahn,
Archdeacon Walter Bayer (ex officio)
Dorothee Dziewas, Wiesbaden
Jes Villa, Munich
Emily York, Paris
Lee Williams, Clermont-Ferrand (chair)

During 2019 COMB met seven times; four times through online videoconferences, and three times in person. One of these in-person meetings was an impromptu meeting with members of EICS during the Academy for Parish Leadership weekend in Augsburg. It is important to balance the need to meet and the expense to do so. In a deliberate attempt to minimize travel expenses, COMB's face-to-face meetings are most frequently timed to coordinate with other Convocation events. Even though internet platforms like Zoom and Skype continue to improve in quality, face-to-face meetings will always be essential whenever COMB is discerning with individuals.

COMB's expenses for this year 2019 will once again be under budget. As the other Commissions can attest, proposing a budget in the Spring of the year before the planned expenditure is a relatively uncomplicated task if each year's activities remain constant, however, when plans change, so do expenses. 2019 has been a year of transition for the Convocation, and COMB is no exception to that transition. Plans for COMB members to visit the parishes to discuss discernment and the discernment process to ministry were placed aside as we focused on welcoming and introducing Bishop Mark to the unique composition and mission of COMB. COMB's budget for 2020 was drafted this past Spring and has been submitted for approval. I anticipate that with the activity that is foreseen, this budget will be fully utilized.

Each year COMB hosts a Vocational Discernment Weekend. This special weekend is the opportunity for anyone who is reflecting on the question, "What is God calling me to do?", to reflect or discern under the leadership of a skilled presenter, in a calm, confidential and caring environment. The Vocational Discernment Weekend is also a necessary initial step for

those who are discerning their call to certain lay ministries as well as ordained ministry. The past November VDW was held in Strasbourg and was guided by Br. Samuel, SSF. Br. Samuel led an excellent weekend. The COMB members present were able to meet one-on-one with those participants who wished. For those clergy who have not heard me issue this request before, and for those who have heard but not necessarily heeded, I encourage you to not only post the notice of the upcoming VDW on your bulletin board, but also to actively encourage your congregation to reflect on the question, "What is God calling me to do?" and then help sign them up! This year's Vocational Discernment Weekend will be led by The Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen.

God calls every Christian to ministry. God's call comes to us in different ways. God equips us and helps us fulfil our call. God calls us to a variety of ministries: to Lay ministry in our parish, in our community; in our work place; in the mission field; in vowed religious life - to Ordained ministry: deacon ...priest ...bishop. Come and explore. Come and begin to discern, to learn, to pray.

The 2019 Spirituality Retreat was held 2-4 March, 2018 in Tutzing, Germany, and was led by Rev. Canon Christopher Jage-Bowler, Chaplain at St. George's Anglican Church, Berlin, Germany. The theme was "Praised be you my Lord through Sister Water - the Spirituality of Water". This weekend was intimate and refreshing. Among the comments from participants,

- Loved the theme, and the speaker was great!
- Very good, very inspiring, lively discussions.

The next Spirituality Retreat will take place 20-22 March 2020. Further information will be forthcoming.

Since the last Convention, the following individuals have been ordained or licensed: Edda Wolff, priest; Jean Dumond Chavanne, transitional deacon; Stephanie Burette, transitional deacon and Lois Stuckenbruck, licensed lay preacher.

COMB is currently undergoing transition. At our late Spring meeting in Strasbourg, we have established that:

- a) membership on COMB should not be indefinite, but should be shaped as an appointment for a term;
- b) that terms should be four years in length;
- c) that terms should be renewable once; and
- d) that after two consecutive terms, a member of COMB should rotate off the Commission, at least for a year.

With the meeting in Geneva, your COMB membership is changing, and details of that change will be presented at Convention.

Let me close with a thought that I shared last year, and that I believe appropriate as the Commission transforms this year.



**THE CONVOCATION OF EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN EUROPE
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY TO THE BAPTIZED**

The Commission on the Ministry to the Baptized serves to guide and empower all baptized people in discerning their ministries.

There is never a moment in lay or ordained ministry when you aren't being ministered to. The Savior is not just working through you in the lives of others, but He is also working in you as He works through you. He is not just calling you to be an agent of His transforming grace; He is transforming you by the same grace. He is not just committed to the success of your ministry but also to the triumph of His grace in your own heart and life... You are never just a vehicle of His amazing grace. No, you are always also a recipient of that grace.

Thanks be to God.

“The essential objective of any kind of Christian formation is to know God better to love him more truly, and to become more faithful disciples and effective witnesses of Christ in every area of our lives so that we may be progressively transformed by the Holy Spirit, into Christ’s image.”

2019 EICS – ANNUAL REPORT – Geneva, Switzerland

The European Institute of Christian Studies (EICS) is the body responsible for the formation needs of Convocation leaders. EICS supports the study, prayer, and formation that all Christians require for spiritual growth. These three areas help to build one’s knowledge of the faith to enable each of us to become more effective ministers in whatever work God calls us to do.

EICS board members are lay and clergy from around the Convocation. Members are appointed to the board by the Bishop, who is himself also a member. EICS board members typically serve on the committee for several years.

The EICS Board presently consists of the following members:

- **Janet Day-Strehlow CHAIR** (Ascension Church Munich DE),
- **The Rev. Anthony Jewiss** (Alet Les Bains FR).
- **The Rev. Scott Moore** (St James' Church, Nuremberg, DE),
- **Kaye O'Connell** (Ascension Church Munich DE),
- **The Rev. Michael Rusk** (Emmanuel Church, Geneva CH),
- **Bill Tompson**, (The American Cathedral Paris FR),
- **Bishop Mark Edington** (*ex-officio*)
- **Archdeacon Walter Baer** (*Advisor*)

EICS meets in person once a year and the rest of the time relies on video conferencing, in order to keep our expenses down. This year, we will combine our annual meeting with Convocation Convention. We will be slightly under our budget of €25,000 this year.

FORMATION PROGRAMS

EICS has developed a number of educational and training programs. The challenge for EICS at its inception (2000) and today is how to effectively support the formation needs of people geographically dispersed across 6 countries when many do not even share the same mother tongue, culture, or haven't any previous experience or formation in the Anglican tradition! Some notable EICS-developed programs include:

- A model for ordinand education and training that serve some of the unique needs of Convocation ordinands. The EICS coordinates closely with the Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized (COMB) to support those going through the ordination process and certifies that each ordinand has met the required standards.

“The essential objective of any kind of Christian formation is to know God better to love him more truly, and to become more faithful disciples and effective witnesses of Christ in every area of our lives so that we may be progressively transformed by the Holy Spirit, into Christ’s image.”

- **EFM:** Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.
 - EFM Coordinator and Leader: Kaye O’Connell
 - Mentors or Mentor Training: 5 individuals in the Convocation are already Mentors or interested in Mentor Training.

- **LICENSED LAY MINISTRY**

All baptized persons are called to be ministers, according to their different gifts. This ministry can be exercised in a variety of different ways among the laity and the ordained. We are currently working on a core curriculum for Licensed Lay Readers and Visitors.

- **THE ACADEMY OF PARISH LEADERSHIP** is a program of events in support of lay leaders based in Convocation parishes and missions. The APL offers training for these leaders in areas of stewardship, church finance and governance, for those entrusted to participate in planning and teaching of Christian formation programs. One program is offered each year and alternates with Vestry Academy. Shared leadership is a call from God; the experience and input of lay leaders of the Convocation is vital to helping us to make good decisions in our work together.

This year’s Academy of Parish Leadership was focused on “Experiencing the Holy”, from 3-5 May 2019 in Augsburg. We had the highest attendance of any APL so far, with over 55 persons attending from every country in the Convocation.

We considered: What is the Holy, Liturgy and Holiness, Experiencing the Holy in the Habit of Priesthood (the priesthood of all believers!) and how the Gospel of Luke can be linked to the theme of holiness.

We were blessed to have the sessions led by the very Rev. Ian S., Markham Ph.D, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary and the Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D., Vice President for Institutional Advancement and the Arthur Carl Lichtenberger Professor in Pastoral Theology and Continuing Education at Virginia Theological Seminary.



THE CONVOCATION OF EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN EUROPE
European Institute of Christian Studies

“The essential objective of any kind of Christian formation is to know God better to love him more truly, and to become more faithful disciples and effective witnesses of Christ in every area of our lives so that we may be progressively transformed by the Holy Spirit, into Christ’s image.”

There were selected poems and writings offered to enrich the presentations and small group activities. Poetry can open our minds in challenging ways to the ancient truths of Holy Scripture. Poetry has “words that listen,” when reason fails.

The “Holy” is always being revealed and is ever new, even as it is timelessly “perfected” in Creation and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Canon of Holy Scripture is closed, but the spirit of the Canon is ever open, ever new!

We look forward to working with Bishop Mark and seeing where the spirit leads us in 2020.



The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

Grant Project Learning Report for Grants Received in 2018

Please complete this form and **return it by April 8th** of the year following the grant to:

Bishop's Office
Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
23 Ave George V
75008 Paris
France
E-mail: office@tec-europe.org

Name of Grant Recipient:	The Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Frankfurter Str. 3, 65189 Wiesbaden
Name of Grant Officer: Phone number/address/email:	The Rev. Christopher Easthill (for the Capital Campaign Cttee) +49-611-50504302/see above/revchris@staugustines.de
Grant Category: (General / Exceptional / German / Rowthorn)	General
Grant Title: Purpose (in a few words):	Phase 1 of the refurbishment of the undercroft (replacing the current heating system). Install a more efficient and environmentally friendly heating system, also freeing up space in a later phase for a bigger kitchen, a second toilet, and more space for Sunday school and crèche.
Amount received in €:	€10,000
Mission 2006 Goals supported by the grant: <input type="checkbox"/> I. Community and Identity <input type="checkbox"/> I. Community and Identity <input type="checkbox"/> I. Community and Identity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> III. Beyond Our Doors: Sharing the Transformative Power <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> III. Beyond Our Doors: Sharing the Transformative Power <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> III. Beyond Our Doors: Sharing the Transformative Power	

This self-evaluation is designed to help us all prayerfully and respectfully reflect on the knowledge and experience gained through the use of this grant. This self-reflection is an important part of our mutual learning process. Therefore, please answer the following questions about your grant project so that others might learn from your experience.

1. In your opinion, did you achieve what you had expected through the use of the grant? Yes, in two different ways:
 1. The heating project was successfully completed in September 2018. The new heating has already proven to be more effective and according to an estimate of our consultant, we will use 20 – 30 % less energy, so it is also environmentally friendly.
 2. Not only did the grant help finance the project, it was also very useful in convincing third parties to support us. In the end we received €43.500 in outside support (city, local bank, local gas utility).
2. What have you/your congregation learned by undertaking this project?
Old buildings contain surprises. Construction issues (from previous renovations) emerged that pushed up costs, as did additional requirements from the local authorities.

3. How has this enhanced your ministry?
We have a well-heated and therefore more welcoming church for all our activities. We also gained additional storage space (that can later be converted into either a new kitchen or meeting room), have further improved the Sunday School space – which is now better heated and more welcoming.
4. What would you do again and what would you recommend others to do, if you/they wanted to engage in the same project?
We would repeat the project without changes.
5. If you could have done some things differently regarding this project, what would they have been?
Improve cost control. Use architect less for some supervision, volunteers more.
6. What were some challenges that you encountered? What, if any, resolutions to those challenges did you find?
Work took both longer and was more expensive than expected.
7. In the process of using this grant, did you discover any resources that might help others in the Convocation? What were they, where can they be found, and how were they helpful?
Aggressively advertise Convocation Grant support to facilitate local grants.
8. If the project was over or under budget, please explain the reasons for the discrepancy. Project was over budget for the reasons mentioned above (construction, additional demands on a listed building, also heating system supplier increased costs compared to 2017 offer). Overall, we spent €140,000 but thanks to the €53,500 outside support (incl. Convocation grant) were able to finance the rest (€86,500) from congregational donations.
9. Do you intend to continue the project in the following year? How will you sustain it?
N/A, though we plan on completing further high priority renovation and renewal projects in 2019 for which we have already been allocated a €5,000 Convocation grant.

All Saints, Waterloo

Thanks to the generous 2018 grant of the Convocation, we successfully planted our new mission, St Esprit Mons. The first few months the congregation worshipped in a well-furnished Roman Catholic church's side chapel. Due to their schedule changes, we had to move to a small, unheated, barely furnished chapel. The funds paid for a portable altar, chairs, an electric keyboard and speaker, and altar furnishings. They also provided for a donation to the chapel where worship takes place. For our first services, and as a form of publicity, we hired a small choir (with big drums!) The congregation consists of mostly immigrants from Rwanda and Burundi, where a feast after worship is customary and expected. Funds from the Convocation are used to provide for these gatherings. Finally, a portion of the funds helps with transportation to bring some of the congregation to worship. Our attendance has ranged from 28-85 persons, so we think we're off to a good start. We are very thankful for the Convocation's ongoing support, without which the mission could not survive.

Church of the Resurrection, Orvieto

The pastoral needs of the Mission of Orvieto are many, and every day we are trying to serve more and better. In addition to pastoral activities such as visiting of the sick in the hospital and at home, assistance to the needy in the "Centro di Ascolto", formation with "An Outline of the Faith" for children and the celebration of the bilingual Holy Eucharist (Italian / English), this year I am also giving pastoral assistance with counselling in the field of bioethics.

From this year we are trying to reach as many people as possible, in fact we are inviting through advertising and leaflets to try to bring to the Church to all people of good will who need to listen to the Word of God and live the life of faith within a community but which due to various problems cannot identify themselves. This happens not only with the Italian population, but also with immigrants who leave their countries, customs, culture and worship. Thank you!

St. Boniface, Augsburg

Child & Youth Ministry:

We continued our regular Sunday school group and enhanced this field of work by supporting the staff and buying several new materials.

Church music:

Besides the organist costs (which are covered by our regular budget) we also acquired several new materials.

Outreach:

We continued our cooperation with the SKM Wärmestube (a Roman Catholic homeless shelter organization) and hosted a service for that peer group and a Thanksgiving dinner open for all.

Furthermore, in this field, we also hosted an Easter event in our quarter Hochzoll (together with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church, but mainly sponsored by us)

Pastoral Care:

As a new development, unforeseen in the budget at the beginning of the year, we employ since September 2018 a new priest. Besides the salary and other additional cost, an office room had to be established, furnished and financed.

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Paris

With the help of the grant and the loan from the Convocation, the Cathedral has successfully completed the replacement of the rusted iron fire escape, which dated from the 1950s, with a state of the art lacquered one. The work was finished in January 2019. A further intervention of contractors proved necessary, and has been ordered, to repair

the stone wall on which the old stairs were fixed, and to remove metal embedded in the stone. This will be completed for the end of 2019.

An unannounced fire drill took place at the end of September when electricians working at the Cathedral accidentally set off the fire alarm. The schoolchildren whose classrooms give onto the fire escape used it to everyone's satisfaction.

Christ Church, Clermont Ferrand

Christ Church Clermont Ferrand received an emergency grant of €15,000. The funds were used to cover Fr. Robert Warren's final expenses before his departure from Christ Church as there was a shortfall in contributions and operating income. The grant money was used to cover Fr. Rob's salary, travel expenses, Church Pension Fund contributions, French social charges, and home leave/continuing education.

UNCSW63

The 63rd United Nations Commission on the status of Women (UNCSW63) met from March 8 to March 22 at the United Nations in New York City. The UNCSW is an annual gathering of 193 member states of the United Nations to consider global issues related to women's empowerment and gender justice. Among the 9,000 registrants were Anglican and Episcopal participants from around the world. This year's theme was very broad covering the following areas:

- Social protections systems,
- Access to public services
- Sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and
- The empowerment of women and girls

These priorities come from The Being Platform, a comprehensive landmark document created in 1995 that set out the goals that were to be achieved by 2030.

It was an honor to serve as one of nine members chosen to be the delegation representing the Presiding Bishop.

What did that mean? What were our responsibilities? To give us an overview of our tasks during the two-week Commission, we had 5 teleconferences prior to the March date with the two people who worked with the delegation, Lynnaia Main, the Episcopal Church representative to the UN and the Rev'd. Glenda McQueen, Staff Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean. The main focus was to learn how we would follow up and represent the Presiding Bishop's support of this year's theme as he explained in his official message to the UN. And how, you may ask, did he arrive at his official message to the UN? His support of the priorities of the UNCSW63 priorities were directly based on the issues addressed and the resolutions passed at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2018.

The women in the delegation were from very different backgrounds with a variety of experiences. One member Karen Patterson, serves as a court appointed guardian for people who have been judged incapacitated. She's also the current National President of Episcopal Women. Another member, Chiseche Salome, Ph.D. has published widely on gender-based violence. Yet another member, Michelle Roberts, works with poverty-stricken communities in the US suffering from unclean water supplies. From our discussions I learned about the *environmental racism*. Companies who pollute the air or water do not build their plants around nice suburbs. Michelle is an advocate for economically poor communities who have no power or voice in government.

Upon entering the UN building I was struck with an exhibit in the foyer about FGM –female genital mutilation and the efforts that succeeding to diminish this practice. Photographs of young girls who, supported by their mothers or sisters, refused to follow the cultural traditions. Now even clergy are defying the traditional norms and campaigning against it. Their testimonies shed a ray of hope. There were also large posters with statistics about the many difficult conditions of women and girls around the world. They were pleas for recognition and help. There over 400 presentations in two weeks. We made our choices and met for a debriefing at the end of the day. It brought us up close and personal to the conditions women face and the efforts to improve them, along with sessions about advocacy.

Did you know...

Episcopalians have been engaging with the United Nations (UN) since its inception in 1945. They participate in many different ways: as UN staff, as representatives of member states, as

representatives of civil society organizations, or simply by learning from the UN or attending UN events. In their local churches, dioceses and communities, Episcopalians engage with the UN by learning about issues being discussed at the UN, by contributing their expertise to the UN when possible, and by creating an understanding of the link between our local concerns and the global community of which we are all a vital part.

During the many presentations, I collected numerous folders and website sources. I encourage you to talk to me if you are interested in any of the priority areas of the UNCSW63 theme.

Cynthia Wilson D'Alimonte
St. James, Florence

The United Nations is a testimony to the immense global cooperation of the 193 member states who desire world peace, humanitarian aid, human rights, and community sustainability.



The Convocation of **Episcopal** Churches in Europe

The Episcopal Church in The Anglican Communion

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

23 Avenue George V ✚ 75008 Paris ✚ France

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Report on the Bishop's Discretionary Fund

The Bishop's Discretionary Fund is an account separate from the Convocation Fund (the operating account of the Convocation). It is made available to the bishop to provide for extraordinary expenses associated with the pastoral responsibilities of the bishop's office.

At its October meeting, the Council of Advice will consider a draft policy governing the use and oversight of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. One expectation of that policy will be an annual report to Convention providing information on resources received in support of the Fund.

As with all such funds, the member of the clergy to whom such resources are provided—in this case, the bishop—must be accountable to an officer of the Convocation in order to assure compliance with policies in place governing the use of the Fund. Under the proposed policy, the bishop will report regularly and confidentially to the Treasurer of the Convocation on funds received for, and disbursements made from, the Discretionary Fund.

As of October 11, 2019, the Bishop's Discretionary Fund has received the following:

Opening Balance (transfer):	€ 1,051.01
From Trust Funds under DFMS Management:	6,490.86
From Gifts:	11,285.17
From Parishes in the context of Visitations:	1,081.00
 Total Receipts:	 €19,908.04