



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 17, 2013

Dear People of God in the Convocation of Churches in Europe,

The canon law of The Episcopal Church requires bishops to make an annual Address to their conventions and synods. Five years ago, I decided not to read this Address to the convention, but rather issue an official Pastoral Letter in the form of an Address, to be made available in all our congregations after Convention. As this continues to be a hit with the delegates, at least, I am repeating for the sixth year this way of addressing the delegates, by addressing all of you in Europe.

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 will reply — I promise.

Canon law requires that I inform you of my “episcopal acts” — what I have been doing in my role as your Bishop — since our last convention. I made 21 visitations, confirming and receiving 58, presiding at 13 baptisms; and ordaining the Rev. Elizabeth Ewing to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood at St. Andrew’s, College Park, Maryland, on December 8. I ordained Fanny Belanger and Christopher Easthill to the Sacred Order of Deacons on March 17 at the Virginia Seminary Chapel, as they move toward the priesthood. (Christopher is with us at Convention.) On June 30, I assisted at the ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons of Bruce Rienstra, by the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, in Southwell Cathedral. Though Bruce began the ordination process with us, Bishop Geoffrey Rowell and I determined, along with Bruce, that his ministry would be better suited in the Church of England.

The Rev. Ian Gallagher was instituted as Interim rector of Christ-the-King, Frankfurt, on November 24. On January 27 I instituted the Rev. Dennis Krumlauf as Vicar of St. James the Less, Nürnberg; then as Vicar of St. Boniface, Augsburg, on April 21. On May 26, I instituted the Very Rev. Lucinda Laird as Dean and Rector of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity,

Paris. (The word “institute” refers to the Bishop delegating his or her authority over a congregation to a Priest.)

Christ-the-King Church, Frankfurt, has called the Rev. John Perris, Rector of St. James, Montclair, New Jersey, as their new Rector. He will begin his charge on February 1, 2014. A 1998 graduate of the General Theological Seminary, he has served three parishes since 2006, including St. James. Fr. Perris is married to Catharine, and they have three teenage children. Before ordination, he was an attorney. He is fluent in German and French. Welcome in advance, John and Catharine!

On a very different note, I received a request from the Rev. Anthony Litwinski for the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation between him and the Vestry of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Wiesbaden. This is a canonical process wherein the Bishop is required to examine and adjudicate “as final arbiter and judge” the relationship between a priest and a parish, attempting to achieve the highest degree of reconciliation possible (see Canon III.9.13). An investigative committee has begun its work. Father Litwinski has been and remains a priest in good standing in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. All of us in this process stand in real need of your prayers.

The work of this Convention

We have two basic jobs to do: one, to consider again the landmark document you passed last year, Vision 2012; and two, to meet with the Most Rev. Joris Vercammen, Archbishop of Utrecht of the Old Catholic Churches, and the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies.

The Convocation owes its growth into a self-governing ecclesial body to three planning processes: Mission 2000, which threw down the bases for growing structures of governance and programs in formation of lay and ordained leaders, including young people; Mission 2006, that called for serious development of leadership, new congregations, educational initiatives, and programs for young people, spirituality and worship, and the pursuit of social and environmental justice; and Vision 2012.

This latter is not a strategic plan *per se*. Using the same open processes that resulted in Mission 2006, representatives of all our congregations met in Munich in June 2012, and again in Convention in Clermont-Ferrand, to shape and validate what is a charter for growth in maturity and depth as followers of Jesus: individually, as a congregation, as a missionary diocesan enterprise. Vision 2012 was designed and decided by you.

Reflecting back on that process, I remember that at the first-ever Council of Advice meeting in January 2011, we discussed the need for a new five-year plan to be passed by that year’s convention in Florence. As the conversation progressed, it became obvious that we needed to take more time to consider what was needed next. Conversations at Convention 2011 led to the process I outlined above.

The first aspect of Vision 2012 is a new statement of purpose for the Convocation, all our churches, and all our people together:

The Episcopal Church Europe is a welcoming community that knows God loves all people – no exceptions. We celebrate our diversity of languages, cultures and nations. We rejoice in reaching out to the world and becoming One in Christ.

The previous mission statement from 1999 said this:

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.

I remember when church mission statements were new, copied from business practice. Today they are *de rigueur*. The best known, perhaps, is “To know Christ and to make Him known.” I wonder whether such statements are not a little passé, in this tweeting, Facebook 'friending', and Pinterest social-media age. But one should note the difference of emphasis in the two statements. The 1999 statement is about an identity yet to be claimed, that we are not a collection of isolated congregations but rather something more. The 2012 statement has no such ambiguity. It reflects the lengthy process to develop the new logo of the Convocation:



This “branding” work was essential for the design of our new website. Still at www.tec-europe.org, the website design follows the painstaking parameters of the logo design.

The heart of Vision 2012

What we shall experience at this year’s Convention in Rome will be almost a kind of retreat on the four points of the document — identity, formation, mission, and management. The Rt Revd Tim Ellis, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Sheffield, will lead us. He is an exceptionally gifted leader who will give brief reflections on each point to inspire conversations among the delegates. He likens the four points to the four altars visited by Abraham in his pilgrimage toward the Land of Promise. As a pilgrim people, we will pause to reflect on our “learnings”, and perhaps make some new decisions based on our discussion. I anticipate a very rich time for each and every one of us, including our visitors.

In other words, this will be the “take-away” for us, back to our homes and communities, our congregations, our countries. For claiming our identity as followers of Jesus, figuring out what we need to learn in order to be better disciples, mustering the courage to go outside our church community to learn what the world around us needs, and being better managers of the assets that belong to God for God’s mission — people, ideas, money, properties — should affect every one of us, beginning with me.

The Council of Advice decided that rather than have a “vision committee” like Mission 2006’s Strategic Implementation Commission, each of the eight members will serve as liaisons for Vision 2012’s implementation in our parishes and missions. So clergy and lay leaders will receive regular contacts from Council to see what is being accomplished and what needs there are to be met. Of course, the work done at this Convention will be taken into account as well.

I long to hear “well done” when I am in Larger Life and meet the Lord face to face. But I know that in order to have done well then, I need to become a better servant of Christ now. Vision 2012 is designed to help me — all of us — in that work of growth into the height, and breadth, and depth of the love of Christ (Eph. 3: 16-21; 4:13). As for me, your Bishop and “sinner-in-chief”, so for you. Be expectant!

Other matters

Of course, Convention is for Convocation business, though I would argue there is no business more important than our growth in Christ. We will have elections to a wide variety of offices:

1. Council of Advice: two in each order for a two-year term, plus one lay person to fill an unexpired term for one year.
2. Secretary to Convention: one for a three-year term.
3. Treasurer of the Convocation: elect one to fill an unexpired term for one year.
4. Disciplinary Board: elect four clergy and three lay for staggered terms from one to three years.
5. General Convention 2015 of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, Utah (June 25-July 3): elect four in each order for three-year term, plus alternates.

There will be a budget to pass for 2014, and financial statements to review for 2012 and 2013 (partial).

One significant change is that Kathy Marker, elected Treasurer last year, is resigning, as she and her husband David are moving back to the United States. She is already there, working in a new job. We will sorely miss the Markers, not only at Christ Church, Clermont-Ferrand, where they were founding members, but also in the Convocation. Many thanks to Kathy for all her hard work to completely revise the bookkeeping system, with our Bookkeeper, Sophie Plé. Our annual audits will become much easier now, among other things.

Many thanks to Helena Mbele-Mbong, one of our great leaders, for stepping in as chair of the Finance Committee to give the finance report. I have asked Sophie Plé to be present as well. (Incidentally, Helena also serves as lay representative to the annual Synod of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe.)

There will be an important address by Archbishop Vercammen. All of the churches of the Anglican Communion have been in full communion with the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht since 1931. Not all of us are near Old Catholic parishes, so here is a thumbnail sketch of the history of this communion, and of our ecumenical relationship with them:

The Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht trace their origin back to St. Willibrord, who founded the See of Utrecht, Holland, in 695 A.D. Having survived the Reformation, the archbishops of Utrecht came into conflict with the papacy for being “not Catholic enough.” This lasted throughout the seventeenth century and by 1724 with the election of Cornelius van Steenhoven, Utrecht was no longer in communion with Rome.

There was a great wave of sentiment against what were seen as the novel ideas of the universal ordinary jurisdiction of the Pope and papal infallibility introduced at Vatican I. This awakened similar communities that made common cause with Utrecht. The latter had already been calling itself “The Old Catholic Church” since 1853 to distinguish itself from the “innovations” of Pope Pius IX. These innovations passed by Vatican I, not only papal infallibility but also the universal ordinary jurisdiction of the Pope, especially were to be the motive for what has since been called “the Old Catholic movement.”¹ The Old Catholic Churches today are in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Austria.² The Archbishop of Utrecht, in unbroken line from Willibrord, presides over the conference of bishops, but each church has some leeway in organizing its own life. In each of their countries, the Old Catholics continue to uphold the “ancient faith of the land”, as they see it.

Being in full communion means that we recognize each other as true Churches. Our clergy are interchangeable, and our members are fully welcome at each other’s parishes. (In fact, I am licensed as assisting bishop in the Old Catholic Church of Germany.) For several years, Archbishop Vercammen and I have maintained that the best long-range future of Europe for us all lies in a communion of churches that includes the four Anglican jurisdictions, including our own; the Old Catholic Churches, and the Scandinavian Lutheran Churches. The Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, is in favor of this concept, as well. The Archbishop has asked to speak to our common life and ministries together on the Continent. In May, he met with the Council and me in Waterloo. To my knowledge, this is the first visit by an Archbishop of Utrecht to one of our conventions.

To my knowledge, this is also the first visit by a President of the House of Deputies to the Convocation convention. As you know, the General Convention is the ultimate governing body of our church. It is composed of two bodies, the House of Bishops, and the House of Deputies. All bishops in good standing may attend, and active bishops must attend meetings of the House, as we are elected by our dioceses and confirmed by majority vote of all diocesan bishops and standing committees. Each diocese sends up to eight Deputies to General Convention, as does the Convocation, and we will elect our Deputies and Alternate Deputies this year.

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings was elected President last year at General Convention by the House of Deputies. After the Presiding Bishop, the President of the Deputies is the most important office in The Episcopal Church, and in fact, in many respects, they share equally in

¹ The classic text remains C. S. Moss, *The Old Catholic Movement: Its Origins and History* reprinted by Acrophile Press, 2005.

² There are also legitimate Old Catholic groups in America, which by agreement the Episcopal Church is responsible for certifying. The Polish National Catholic Church, despite its roots in the Old Catholic movement, seceded from the Union of Utrecht in 2003.

the leadership of the Church. The President chairs meetings of the House of Deputies (which only meets at General Convention), serves as vice-chair of the Executive Council that runs the church in between Conventions, appoints all members of legislative and standing commissions (besides bishops), and is the vice-president of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, which is the legal organization to which all Episcopalians belong by reason of their membership in the Church. The President is also a member ex-officio of all official commission, committees, agencies and boards of The Episcopal Church. We are grateful that President Jennings has taken time out of a busy schedule to be with us. We look forward to her remarks to Convention, and to a meeting with our newly elected deputation.

It is not a "first" for St. Paul's-Within-the-Walls to host a convention. In the 110 years since the first convention of the Convocation, we have met several times in the Eternal City. The last time was in 2001, during which I was consecrated Bishop in this church. The Rev. Austin Rios and his wife Jill and daughter Aja have settled in, even during a significant renovation of the campanile, church and rectory, which as you can see, has brought out the original glory of the buildings. St. Paul's is the first non-Roman Catholic Church in the City, the only one named for Paul, and the only one with stained glass depicting the Apostle. It is also home to the Latin American Community, for which Fr. Rios is assisted by the Rev. Mercedes Tutasig, a transitional Deacon. And St. Paul's is also home to the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, the only daytime center for refugees in Rome. Jill Rios has become instrumental in the operation of the Center, building on a lot of experience with refugee ministry in the States. The Convocation continues to support this great ministry, as part of our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

Website: By this time you should have seen the new website. Canon Jere Skipper will give a report on its development. I think you will agree that it is beautiful. Moreover, you will discover how functional it is for your congregation to help spread the news of your part of God's mission in the world. A presentation of its power for your ministry — our ministries — will take place during Convention. We have Canon Skipper to thank for the enormous work done — we have a \$25 – 30,000 website for \$4,000. And her team also deserves huge gratitude for helping create one of the Episcopal Church's best diocesan websites. At our Vision 2012 consultation in Munich, a new focus on communications emerged as a priority for our future mission. We look forward to working together to build our public face. Now — how does your congregation's site look?

Disciplinary Board: Brooks Allen, Esq., a parishioner at Emmanuel, Geneva, has resigned as the Convocation's Church Attorney. Brooks and his family are moving to Washington, D.C., where he will begin work as Assistant General Counsel for the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR), Executive Office of the President. We pray all good blessings on him and his family.

This Convention will re-elect four clergy and three lay people to the Board, in staggered terms. The Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan has served as President. She participated in a Provincial Board of Appeals in that capacity last spring.

Tom Müller has appealed yet again to be reinstated. As I understand the decision of the Reference Panel, he can be reinstated as a priest of this Church if he complies with certain requirements within a year's time.

Audit: Our auditors, BDO, have requested €4500 to complete the audit for 2012, an increase of €2000. Assistant Treasurer Denis Le Moullac is meeting with them to clarify the reasons for the increase. In any event a change of Treasurer last year requires a full audit, as per Convocation policy.

As you probably know, sadly, Denis' daughter Amélie was hit by a truck and killed on August 15, in San Francisco, as she bicycled to work. She had just celebrated her 24th birthday... *Dona eis requiem, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

All parishes with **outstanding bylaw issues** had their final drafts in by October 1 (well, almost), for consideration first by the Canons Committee, then the Council and me, then for final approval by the parishes. This will hopefully satisfy for now at least the need for consistency across Europe, as well as compliance with Episcopal Church and Convocation constitutions and canons, as well as national laws.

The Canons Committee is currently composed of the Rev. Dr. Hanns Engelhardt, the Rev. Steve Smith, Christopher Koch, Esq., Maria Grazia Rizzo, Michele Spike, Esq. (who also served as my chancellor) and myself. I am the only non-lawyer on the committee.

Parishes & Mission Congregations

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity:

Habemus Decanus! Dean Lucinda Laird has arrived, as I said above. At the service of Institution we also blessed the almost-completed construction work at the Cathedral. It is truly a magnificent upgrade of facilities, and when we shall meet there again in 2016 you will surely admire it, though I hope people can come to Paris privately before then, as well.

Dean Laird has made a very good start of what I believe will be a long and fruitful ministry among us. The dean of a cathedral is the most significant cleric in a diocese besides the bishop, and it is already a pleasure ministering with her.

Due to construction, we had to move the Convocation Office in January, and then back to the Cathedral in July. Both went smoothly, and the refreshed facilities are attractive. The new elevator will tempt us not to take the stairs.

At the same time, the Cathedral has asked for a major increase in our donation. The history is that when I arrived in 2001, we were giving €2500. When Dean Fleetwood and the Vestry gave us temporary facilities in 2006, we voluntarily increased our donation to €5000. Now we have been asked to consider €17,000 annually. We will donate €6000 for the remainder of 2013, and begin with the new level of gift in 2014.

Christ Church, Clermont-Ferrand:

The Warrens have closed on a new home, and are settling in. Fr. Rob has a strong teaching ministry, and his wife Caireen is very involved in the Youth Commission. The parish continues to experience its usual turnover in members, although permanent resident members are growing in number. The fact of finally having a center in the middle of the city has helped developed new midweek ministries that are attracting people. And we all had a great time at Convention there last year!

Emmanuel Church, Geneva:

Fr. John Beach may be our senior rector in terms of years in the Convocation, but the parish is young and vibrant in a wealth of program offerings. Music continues to be a vital ministry, including performances of an original opera, as well as concerts. Cursillo and Happening are starting, and we shall see what the effect will be in terms of our duplication.

All Saints, Waterloo:

The parish is growing again, thanks to the energetic and wise leadership of their Rector, the Rev. Sunny Hallanan.

This spring, they hosted the annual Youth Across Europe event. The program -- *Who are You? Our Youth's Identity as Third Culture Kids, Christians, Peacemakers and Servants* -- was exceptional and the event well attended.

In February, I received a telephone call from the Fiduciary Trust Company of Boston, Massachusetts, telling that that this parish was to receive a bequest of \$25,000, and that the Convocation "would receive a lot more." As the story unfolded, it became clear that the Convocation had been named as trustee for All Saints of a bequest of roughly \$1.1 million. While this amount does not quite retire the debt from the 2007 purchase of the church building from the Swedish Lutheran Church, it does considerably ease the worries of the parish leadership.

The bequest is part of the will of the Rev. Worth and Dorothy Campbell, who also left equal amounts to three other (non-church) beneficiaries. Fr. Campbell served as the last rector of Holy Spirit, Nice, France, which merged with Holy Trinity, Nice, in 1971. He also served as vicar to the congregation that is now All Saints Parish. He passed into Larger Life in 2004, and his wife followed him last year.

This story exemplifies what planned giving can do for a parish or for the Convocation. I hope that it will inspire every one of our congregations to develop awareness of what planned giving means, and that it is perfectly possible to structure a gift in the way that parishioners desire.

St. Paul's, Rome: I've already described much of what's happening, but there is more. Francisco Alberca is writing his exams for EICS and COMB, to fulfill canonical requirements for reception as a priest in the Episcopal Church from the Roman Church. He lives in Orvieto with his wife Paola and their two children, and is a noted bioethicist.

St. Augustine's, Wiesbaden: The significant issue that the parish must finally face up to is the growing dilapidation of their building, which is owned very remotely by the Bishop of London. They must either raise the funds for a major restoration, or find a new church home. A difficult passage for any congregation, and which also requires prayer, please.

Church of the Ascension, Munich:

Fr. Smith led a team to visit with the Romanian Orthodox Church diocese of Huși, where the Rev. Dorothee Hahn works as missionary. She reports that she is still very happy. See her blog, at romania-missionary.blogspot.com/

On June 2, the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, visited the parish. She has told me what a wonderful visit she had, and how touched she was to go out and see the ministries the parish is involved in. A nice touch for Ascension's 110th year!

The parish continues its support group for English-speaking prisoners. While many of our congregations visit individuals in prisons, this is the one organized ministry I know of in the Convocation. "I was in prison, and you visited me..."

Christ-the-King, Frankfurt: Besides the good news concerning the call of the Rev. John Perris, the Rev. Ian Gallagher has done a great job as Interim Rector. We shall be sorry to see him return to the Church of England at year's end.

The Rev. Jennifer Adams-Maßmann is studying and working in the Diocese of Ely, as her husband Alex is doing post-doctoral work at Cambridge University. They should return next summer to Germany.

St James, Florence: the parish is rejoicing to have its carriage house returned to use. When fully renovated, this lovely structure will be of great use for activities, scholars in residence, and so on.

Under Fr. Mark and Dottie Dunnam's leadership, a number of programs have sprung up, taking advantage of Florentine culture, but also talented parishioners. Matthew Fox, a well-known theologian, recently visited the parish to give a lecture, for example.

Specific reports on mission congregations:

Resurrection, Orvieto: At least they do have a church now, and there remains a small remnant. I hope that Francisco Alberca could eventually help rebuild a congregation.

Christ Church, Charleroi, Belgium: The Rev. Mark Barwick reports that the congregation continues to do well. It will be wonderful to have their delegates at Convention.

St. Columban's, Karlsruhe: Our oldest mission will enter its twentieth year next year. I continue to visit once a year, though Fr. Engelhardt reports that he will need help, as he enters his 80th year. He has asked, and I accepted, that he be excused from attending Convention this year.

St. Boniface, Augsburg & St. James the Less, Nürnberg: The mission congregations have asked to have a second year with Fr. Dennis Krumlauf, who reports significant growth in both, keeping him much busier than originally thought. Their financing needs to be continued, but on the basis that they are taking on more and more responsibilities.

St. Alban's, Ramstein, has made contact again. The Bishop of the Armed Forces is glad for our support over the years.

Grace Anglican-Episcopal Church in the Hérault: Mary Faigle and the intrepid band continue to convene meetings for reorganizing the congregation in Montpellier proper. The group is enthusiastic; they also continue their search for appropriate, desirable meeting space. An initial host did not pan out, despite the Archbishop's permission extended to us.

Milan Italian Missions: The Council and I have decided to proceed to incorporate this congregation, **Buon Pastore**, officially into the Convocation next year, as well as to receive their priest, Maria Vittoria Longhitano, into the Episcopal Church. For all intents and purposes she can be considered now as one of us. What a gift she and her people are to us!

I will visit Milan again before year's end. The Carmelites are growing as well. Madre Maria reports that there is a significant number of people elsewhere that consider themselves affiliates — she calls them “the diaspora.” There may be enough in Sicily to form a small congregation, for instance.

For now, they are still Old Catholics, under my jurisdiction by license from Bishop Harald Rein of the Christkatholische Kirche der Schweiz (the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland), and using the Swiss rite in Italian.

Polish Episcopal Network (Polska Wspólnota Episkopalna)

I attended another retreat of the Network in Pulawy, Poland, on September 8-9. All services were in Polish translation. There will be a request forthcoming to form a congregation under the Convocation's “specialized mission” canon. The two leaders, Jarek Kubecki and Lukasz Liniwicz, had a good meeting with the Presiding Bishop during her visit to Ascension, Munich, in May.

EICS: The new co-chairs, the Rev. Liz Hendrick of the Cathedral, and Sonja March from St. James the Less, Nürnberg, are moving along with plans for several events in the coming year. The last Academy for Parish Leadership, led by Bishop Ian Douglas on the topic of mission, was a great success — “transformative,” said one participant. The next event, APL V, will focus on governance and finance of churches. The APL is for lay leaders only, and is financed through the EICS budget.

We salute **Lora Bernabei** for her energetic chairmanship over the past five years (and are grateful she remains on the EICS board). New lay and clergy members have joined the Committee, bringing new ideas and energy. The Rev. Ashley Null, an Episcopal priest/scholar working in Berlin, has become a valued academic adviser. Fresh initiatives in required programs like *Safeguarding Our Children* are under way.

COMB: “*The Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized serves to guide and empower all baptized people in discerning their ministries.*”

Lee Williams of Christ Church, Clermont, will take over as chair at Convention, succeeding **Rainer Ullmann**, who has been a tremendous chair and leader for four years, and a faithful member for much longer. The COMB is rethinking the Vocational Discernment Conference,

which has made a significant difference for many people so far in answering the deep question, "what is God asking me to do?" The next Conference will be held in Namur, Belgium, November 8 – 10. Anyone asking themselves The Question should feel free to come, or if you know someone seeking to discern God's will, encourage them to attend.

With EICS, COMB is working on programs for licensed ministries such as Catechist, Preacher, and Evangelist. More information should be forthcoming soon.

The **Youth Commission** held the first-ever 20-somethings' event this spring, in Berlin, bringing to fruition their plan to extend their programs to include young people, ages 10-29. They convened the 2nd annual Youth Leaders retreat, as well as the first Junior Youth Retreat, and the second Happening for teens — all well-attended, successful events. We are grateful for the support of Ruth-Ann Collins and her team, especially Bronwyn Clark Skov, officer for Youth Ministries for The Episcopal Church, who joined the meetings of the Youth Commission and Youth Leaders in December.

The **Committee on Mission Congregations** divided its work into two sections: one, nurturing the mission congregations we have, and the other working to plan new congregations strategically. While progress was made in terms of supporting more explicitly the existing congregations, the planning work is still in initial stages. Both are vital needs for us to continue to grow and expand in Europe.

The Rev. **Clair Ullmann** has done a lot of work to revitalize this committee. We owe her (yet another) debt of gratitude, as she steps down this year.

Other: General Convention passed legislation allowing for a provisional rite of Same-sex Blessing last year, and last fall I issued strict guidelines for their use in Europe. The first official **same-sex blessing** under the new provision took place at the Cathedral on August 31. There is ongoing discussion in all our congregations, and we should not expect that every one would be offering this rite.

In the Fall of 2012, leaders of The Order of the **Daughters of the King** met with women in four Episcopal parishes -- three in Germany and one in Italy -- with the idea of forming DOK chapters here in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. In 2013, chapters were instituted at St. Boniface in Augsburg, Germany, St. Paul's Within-the-walls, Rome, and at El Buen Pastor Church in Mostoles, Spain. Many thanks to **Rosemarie Valentine** for leading the way in making available in Europe this valuable resource for women. Despite its 19th-century name, it allows busy 21st-century women a simple daily path to a richer spiritual life.

We hosted an 'Anglican Communion' booth at the second annual '*Protestants en fête*' event in Paris (like the *Kirchentag* in Germany), September 27-29. Volunteers from the Cathedral, St Michael's, Paris (Diocese in Europe) and The Convocation developed an array of multi-media materials, and also manned the booth, answering a wide variety of questions (in French, of course) about: The Communion, Anglicanism, Anglicans in France, and faith ... the Catholic daily *La Croix* reports that an estimated 30,000 people participated in the 3-day event. A huge *Merci!* to **Laurence Moachon**, who spearheaded our participation and created several gorgeous visual and text aids, as well as a press release, for the event.

And tune in to her top-rated radio program, *Magazine Anglican*, at <http://www.frequenceprotestante.com/index.php?id=61> - c39

Last year, I **challenged** the Council of Advice to look at the office of Bishop in charge and our staff, with an eye to establishing priorities for the Vision 2012 era. Our two human resource consultants, Kathryn Clutz of the Cathedral, and Bishop Richard Garrard, have submitted their reports, which are quite different, as expected. Now we can have a "stereoscopic" examination, from which we can begin to make a profile for the future.

Our secretary, **Vicky Millet**, is retiring at the end of the year, after seven years of devoted service. I know that you will all join me in thanking her from the bottom of our hearts, and wishing her all good blessings for the future. Of course, we are going to keep her around with us...

I attended the Anglican Consultative Council in Auckland, New Zealand, last October after Convention, in my capacity as President of the **Francophone Network** of the Anglican Communion. The worldwide body meets every three years.

On March 19, I attended the inauguration of **Pope Francis** as 266th Bishop of Rome (if you count St. Peter). The next day I attended his first audience as representative of the Episcopal Church and all of you, and presented him with one of our Convocation Spanish-English Prayer Books, bound in leather. He is my "third" pope.

On May 21, I gave a lecture at the Institut catholique in Paris in a series on "Sacred Cities." Mine was New York City.

On May 23, I attended the installation of Archbishop **David Moxon** of New Zealand as Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. It was my fourth installation of a Director.

I met Archbishop **Justin Welby** for the first time on September 16, my third Archbishop of Canterbury. I am excited about the direction he is taking, and also happy for Archbishop Rowan to be back at Cambridge.

Bishop **Geoffrey Rowell** will step down as Bishop of Gibraltar on November 1. He and I started our ministries in Europe on November 1, 2001. The Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe has sent growth during his twelve years. We wish him Godspeed and all best blessings in his retirement, and expect that he shall write several more outstanding books.

The Diocese in Europe's appointment process is unusual. The Bishop of Gibraltar is appointed by a committee consisting of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and a bishop to be named by the Anglican Consultative Council. The latter body, with which I met last fall, has selected a Nigerian archbishop to serve on this committee. As with the last time, I expect that the Convocation's opinion shall be solicited as part of the process, and that a new Bishop will be enthroned in September next. Please keep this important appointment in your prayers.

I usually meet twice a year with the **Board of Foreign Parishes**, of which I am a member. This Board, along with the Board of St. Paul's and the Board of St. James, assists the Convocation and the Church as a whole by holding certain properties and investments, such as the Nice Fund as well as managing the Jeffrey & Anne Rowthorn Fund for us. All three

were incorporated in the State of New York, beginning when Theodore Roosevelt was governor. The Boards' members tend to be former parishioners of one or more of our churches. In recent years the Board has begun discussions to determine how it might be of service to all our churches.

Personal: My ten weeks of sabbatical leave went well, overall. I began to learn how to use Logic Pro, musical composition software — like Photoshop in complexity and power but for sound instead of images. I also attended a weekend in Oxford, for a conference on Bernard Lonergan, the great theologian and economist.

My sabbatical expenses were much less than the €7500 set aside every five years. Because we had omitted the “home leave” provision from the budget, the Sabbatical fund picked it up, with me using frequent flyer miles for Melinda.

My wife Melinda's business, *Hit Your Mark!*, has begun to get a few clients. We hope to see a little salary by year's end. See hityourmark.biz

Marie-Noëlle, our daughter, has finally finished her diploma in Delaware, and has returned to Paris on September 17 to begin an apprenticeship and diploma in pastry and baking.

Your Bishop and friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a small cross symbol followed by a stylized cursive name that appears to be "P. Mahan".