



The  
Convocation of  
American Churches  
In Europe

October 16, 2008

Dear Delegates,

This year the Strategic Implementation Committee would like to introduce you to some basic information about what to expect at Conventions. Some of you have experienced past Conventions. For others, it's the first time. To help you get the most from the experience, we present the following information:

**What is the Convocation?**

The Convocation consists of parish churches, mission congregations and ministries in Europe. You can see where they are located and find out more about each one at the Convocation website <http://www.tec-europe.org> .

**And the *Convention* of the Convocation?**

The Convention is an important time in the life of the Convocation. It is one time throughout the year that representatives from each parish and mission congregation gather together. The purpose of this Convention / gathering is fourfold:

- 1) **Formation and training** – You have already received an introductory letter from Bishop Whalon. Come prepared – it promises to be a very special program. For the first time in Convocation history, the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, will travel to Europe to participate in the Convention.
- 2) **Spiritual** – During the Convention we gather for daily worship with choral music from the Convocation choir – a time for thanksgiving, reflection and meditation.
- 3) **Business** - You will hear reports from our Bishop as well as the committees of the Convocation, including the presentation of the 2009 budget by the Treasurer. Besides the budget, you will vote on several other resolutions that set procedures and policies that

apply directly to your congregation. There will also be elections for the Council of Advice.

- 4) **Building community** – Mealtimes and coffee breaks are opportunities to get to socialize. Get to know participants, exchange ideas and discover both the rewards and challenges you share with others in the context of your congregational/parish and daily life in European cultures.

### **What is expected of me as a delegate?**

As a delegate you have two basic responsibilities:

- participate fully in the Convention as representative of your parish or mission
- follow-up on the Convention experience upon your return home
  - reporting about the Convocation and sharing information about its activities and programs

You are the link between the Convocation and your parish. How much the people know and understand about the life of the Convocation depends on you!

Welcome to Convention 2008!

*Cynthia D'Alimonte*

*Chair, Strategic Implementation Committee*