

LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE
Board of Directors Meeting
September 24-25, 2018
St. Charles Retreat Center, 2151 Sam Houston Jones Pkwy., Lake Charles, LA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

My last report was presented to the Board of Directors and delegates during the meeting of the 48th Annual Assembly on March 5-6, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I would like now to summarize my work since that report during the Annual Assembly.

It was my pleasure to attend and/or bring greetings at a number of judicatory gatherings and represent the member churches of the LIC at other events since our March Annual Assembly. It was my privilege to represent the Conference at the following meetings and events:

Louisiana Public Defender Board meeting Baton Rouge, LA	March 7, 2018
LA CURE meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	March 13, 2018
54th Annual Louisiana Governors Prayer Breakfast River Center, Baton Rouge, LA	March 14, 2018
Chrism Mass, Renewal of Vows Service Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans	March 26, 2018
Lobby Day at State Capitol, Baton Rouge	March 27, 2018
Led prayer at luncheon honoring Foster Parents, with 1st Lady, Donna Edwards and others. Baton Rouge, LA	March 28, 2018
Anti-Racism Rally, Washington, D.C. and evening Ecumenical Service at Greek Cathedral in D.C.	April 3-5, 2018
70Times7 program at First UMC, Baton Rouge, LA	April 9, 2018
LCA VOAD Meeting, Baton Rouge	April 10, 2018
State Capitol for testimony - re: death penalty.	April 11, 2018
Capital Area Reentry Coalition (CAPARC) training on "Community Impact Bldg." Baton Rouge, LA	April 11, 2018
National Workshop on Christian Unity Silver Springs, MD	April 16-19, 2018

United Church of Christ New Orleans Association Spring Meeting, New Orleans, LA	April 21, 2018
Bread or Stones Faith in Action Meeting, Houma, LA	April 24, 2018
Testify on Bills at LA State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA	May 2, 2018
Bread or Stones Task Force Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	May 3, 2018
Faith & Creation Care Workshop at Restore Louisiana New Orleans, LA	May 10, 2018
ELCA Bayou Conference, Baton Rouge, LA	May 22, 2018
CAPARC special called meeting on Criminal Justice Reinvestment, Baton Rouge, LA	May 24, 2018
Environmental meeting with Rod Cobi, Baton Rouge, LA	May 31, 2018
Justice Reinvestment bill signing at State Capitol Baton Rouge, LA	May 31, 2018
O'Brien House Annual Function, Baton Rouge, LA	May 31, 2018
Presbytery of South LA 139 th Stated Meeting, Metairie, LA	June 5, 2018
Visited with Bishop Douglas Deshotel, Lafayette, LA	June 6, 2018
Louisiana Area, UMC Annual Conference, Shreveport, LA	June 8, 2018
LA VOAD Board Meeting, Alexandria, LA	June 18, 2018
ELCA Bayou Conference; and visited Rev. Dr. Mallery Callahan afterwards. Slidell/Covington, LA	June 19, 2018
AME Zion Annual Conference, Amite, LA	June 20 & 21, 2018
Met with Bishops Muench & Duca, after press conference announcing Bishop Duca's upcoming move. Baton Rouge, LA	June 26, 2018

Bread or Stones Meeting Faith in Action meeting at Little Farms United Church of Christ, New Orleans	June 27, 2018
79 th Episcopal General Convention, Houston, TX	July 5-6, 2018
Louisiana Chaplain's Association meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	July 10, 2018
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church South LA Annual Meeting. Met new Bishop C. James King, Jr., Lafayette, LA	July 11, 2018
Louisiana for Prison Alternatives meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	July 17, 2018
Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention, met new President, Rev. Edward Alexander. New Orleans, LA	July 20, 2018
Church of God in Christ Holy Convocation, Lafayette, LA	July 25, 2018
LA Home & Foreign Missions Baptist State Convention Baton Rouge, LA	July 26, 2018
Wilson Foundation update meeting 70Times7 Initiative Baton Rouge, LA	August 8, 2018
Visit with Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones, Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Shreveport, LA	August 9, 2018
Environmental Boat Trip with Helen Rose Patterson and others, Chalmette, LA	August 14, 2018
Prayer Breakfast at Governor's Mansion, with First Family Baton Rouge, LA	August 15, 2018
Interfaith Justice Coalition mtg – supporting Unanimous Jury Verdict, Baton Rouge, LA	August 16, 2018
Criminal Justice Commission meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	August 23, 2018

Evensong celebration and next day installation of Bishop Michael G. Duca as the new Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge, LA	August 23-24, 2018
Together Baton Rouge Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	August 27, 2018
Catholic Charities Immigration Panel Meeting, Baton Rouge	August 28, 2018
Catholic Charities Executive Board Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	August 30, 2018
Meeting at Governor's office – re: Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act, Baton Rouge, LA	August 30, 2018
Facilitator's Meeting seminar with Dr. Craig Gilliam; and met with new Board members: Fr. Peter Mangum; Fr. Joe Martina; & Mr. Kyle Kelley. Shreveport, LA	September 6-7, 2018
Immigration Teach-In at St. Paul UCC, New Orleans, LA	September 13, 2018
Northshore Jewish Congregation – community support service after synagogue defaced with hate symbols, New Orleans, LA	September 16, 2018
Faith & Order Commission meeting, Baton Rouge, LA	September 19, 2018
Funeral service for LHFMBSC Judicatory Leader: Rev. Dr. Mallery Callahan, Covington, LA	September 21, 2018

One of the objectives in local/regional ecumenical ministry is to work with ecumenical and faith-based organizations around the state to increase communication between the LIC and local ecumenical and faith-based groups and entities. I also continue to serve on other committees, councils, and groups including the Capital Area Reentry Coalition (CAPARC) and the Board of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. I am an active member of the Baton Rouge Chapter of American Fundraising Professionals (AFP) which sponsors an annual Philanthropy Day in November.

In other activities the Commission on Criminal Justice meets approximately bi-monthly. Mrs. Linda Fjeldsjo of Catholic Charities, the Diocese of Baton Rouge, serves well as the Chair. In addition to advocating for Juvenile justice reform, the work of the Commission continues with a focus on Reentry programs in adult corrections. The Commission also addresses other criminal justice issues particularly in alternatives to incarceration, sentencing and sharing in a coalition to abolish capital punishment in Louisiana. The Commission is looking at ways to involve more churches in receiving

formerly incarcerated persons to assist them in assimilation and reintegration into society following up on the Welcome Home Sunday events held in the fall of 2016 at Dillard University, New Orleans and Southern University, Baton Rouge. Our aim with these initiatives is to provide an opportunity for pastors and members of Churches to learn about the needs of Returning Citizens as they reenter communities around the State and how Church members can serve this community. This is part of an effort at adult criminal justice reform in Louisiana.

The Commission on the Stewardship of the Environment is chaired by the Rev. Dr. Cory Sparks, who continues to provide leadership for the Commission. The Commission continues to monitor environmental legislation and coastal restoration efforts. Through the leadership of Dr. Sparks representatives of the Commission have collaborated with National Religious Partnership for the Environment on a number of environmental issues. A theme focusing on different aspects of the Stewardship of the Environment was presented at the Annual Assembly in Baton Rouge last March. Dr. Elizabeth Smith presented on *Laudato Si'*, a document published by Pope Francis. In May of 2018, a workshop presented on "Faith and Creation Care" in which the LIC partnered with Restore the Mississippi River Delta. We give thanks for the leadership of Dr. Sparks who will report on activities of the commission and plans for its future work.

The Commission on Faith and Order is in a time of transition. We are grateful to Fr. Buddy Noel for assuming the role of Chair of the Commission. At the Annual Assembly this past March, Dr. Elizabeth Smith was able to provide an address on the *Outlines of the Future Shape of Christian Unity*. As many of you know, the Commission also fosters observances of the annual Week of Prayer around the State and region.

The Endowment Fund for Christian Unity continues to grow and has now reached 95% of the original goal of \$50,000. The "Friends of the LIC" continuing as a semi-annual appeal is helping to sustain the operations budget. The Stovall Endowment Fund in memory of Rev. James L. Stovall also continues to grow. Information pertaining to the funds is in the financial summary. Please consider a contribution.

Disaster relief and recovery is best done collaboratively. Through the LIC's membership in the Louisiana Association of Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters (LAVOAD) and my service on the board, I am able to keep abreast, current and up to date in the field of disaster. Ms. Jessica Vermilyea serves as Executive Director of LAVOAD. We offer help for famers in partnership with Farm Aid. Mrs. Betty Puckett counsels with farmers and their families who have suffered from various disasters, and she has been able to save farms of numbers of families.

We are grateful for the very capable leadership of the Rev. Dr. Van Stinson who serves as Treasurer with the support and expertise of Mrs. Sandy O'Brien. Once again, we acknowledge our gratitude to LIC secretary, Mrs. Catherine Townsend, who was elected to this office at our recent Annual Assembly. Completing her thirteenth year with the LIC in October, Mrs. Lorraine Grout would be better titled as Office Manager with the several hats she wears as the LIC Administrative Assistant. Whether it's by phone or email many of you have discovered Lorraine's enthusiasm, knowledge, skill, excellence and a real Calling in all she does to further the aims of the LIC. In addition to her other

clerical and accounting skills, I know the members of the Conference join me in appreciation for providing continuous updating of our website and the personal, prompt communications via email or phone. Mr. Samuel Rottman who has completed a second year on our staff as Coordinator of the Bread or Stones Campaign will begin his new position with Boys Hope, Girls Hope in New Orleans. Samuel has successfully launched the campaign and really established this endeavor among over 85 congregations in the ministry to reduce poverty among children in Louisiana. He will be sorely missed as a full-time employee, but I believe he has set a course for sustaining Bread or Stones in Louisiana, and he has agreed to continue to work with the program on a contractual basis. Of course, none of this would have happened without the guidance and partnership with Mr. Rob Gorman and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Rob has shared with us his creative and skillful leadership of the Public Policy task force which now is focused primarily on the Bread or Stones Campaign. I especially want to thank Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, of the Louisiana Area of the United Methodist Church, in providing thoughtful and capable leadership as President, bringing her gifts of wisdom and knowledge and her enthusiasm in envisioning the possibilities of our common life. I am also grateful for her vision and commitment to Christian Unity while serving in a number of major leadership roles in the UMC.

As we strive to keep before us the prayer of Jesus that “all may be one,” it is a privilege to serve alongside each of you in this vital ministry of the Church. It has been just somewhat over a half century since the opening session of Vatican II which gave life to the regional and local expressions of the ecumenical movement as well as supporting a worldwide movement. With the leadership of our President and the Executive Committee I believe LIC’s mission for the future remains vital, and the cooperation of churches and faith communities in Louisiana is strengthening.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue this most challenging and rewarding ministry as we continue in this 48th year of our life together furthering the mission and vision of God for the faith communities represented in the Louisiana Interchurch Conference and in witness to the people and institutions of our state and region.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. C. Dana Krutz
Executive Director