



E-Newsletter

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

January 31, 2018

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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What's On Your Mind?

Article from our Director

In social media I believe it's Facebook that asks for people to comment on their timeline with the question: What's on your mind? During this frenetic period leading to Mardi Gras there are probably many things on your minds depending, of course, on your work and family commitments and a multitude of other activities in which you might engage. So please allow me to share some thoughts that come to mind as we consider the immanent challenges and opportunities for our common mission.

Around the nation we are struggling with the sin of racism. From April 3-5, 2018 the National Mall will be hopefully be filled with people who desire to end racism in America and achieve a unity which has not been experienced before in our nation. Christians from around the nation are gathering for this event. My hope is that we can fill one bus if not more to go and be present for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on April 4th with worship at the Lincoln Memorial out to the areas along the Capital Mall. Hopefully, we can fill a bus from Baton Rouge and, perhaps, other cities around Louisiana for this major event.

There are many matters to come before our legislature this year, and we all need to express our concerns about the budget matters and lack of adequate funding that continue to plague our State and its ability to provide government services like Medicaid, public education, and other services. However, one of the areas we're focusing on is Criminal Justice reform and its implementation. More to the point the LIC is striving to support legislation to end the death penalty. If you have a sense this is an area you'd like to become involved in with your ministry, please let us know!

The environment continues to be an essential focus of our ministry and, as you know, coastal erosion and its restoration has been a part of the focus of the LIC since the 1980's. We have joined with other partners to provide an opportunity for local church leaders to be educated and trained to inform their members about sea level rise and other changes in our environment and how to work to alleviate these problems.

Finally, at our Annual Assembly coming up in March we will have an opportunity to widen our understanding of the theological grounding of our faith as published in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*. This text will help us, I believe, to see the connection of our common witness of faith with other documents produced by our Churches. At a time when the churches are challenged by limited resources for mission and ministry, the need becomes more and more apparent that we join together and demonstrate the unity to which Christ calls us.

Rev. Dan Krutz

Annual Assembly – Hope to see you on March 5th-6th!



The 48th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will be held **March 5-6, 2018**, in Baton Rouge, LA

Theme:

“Outlines of the Future Shape of Christian Unity”

This year’s Annual Assembly will be held at the historic [First United Methodist Church](#), 930 North Blvd., in downtown Baton Rouge, LA.

As always, Guests are invited to all speaker sessions & the evening worship service

Public Schedule: Speaker Sessions on Monday, March 5th will be held from 2:30 to 5:00pm and on Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30am. Evening worship at First UMC will begin at 7:30 that Monday evening.

Monday’s presentations will focus on: **“The implications of Laudato Si’ for the Church.”** This document is authored by Pope Francis, *On Care For Our Common Home*. We invite you to read/review this important text on the Environment at this link:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html. There is a handy audio version for people who want to listen to it while driving, etc., at: http://villagedoings.com/wp-cafe/?page_id=505.



Dr. Smith

The **Keynote Speaker** for the Assembly will be **Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Ph.D.**, a Catholic theologian working in scholarly and pastoral roles in the Boston area. Her work in ecumenism stems from analyses of Christian ecclesiology, one focus being the doctrine of Apostolic Succession. She holds a Ph.D. in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America, as well as a Master of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Music from Boston University. She has authored various publications and papers on ecumenism; has reading competency in Spanish, German, Greek, & Latin; and has traveled extensively around the world.

Evening Ecumenical Worship Service, Monday, March 5th

Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will preach the sermon with leaders from many other denominations participating as well. Service begins at 7:30 in the main sanctuary of First United Methodist Church.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

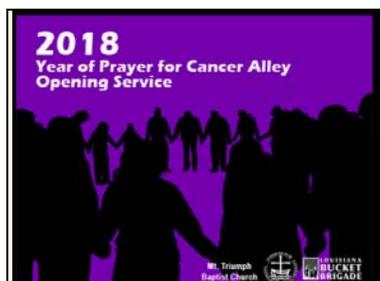
Free parking for the speaker sessions and for the evening worship service is available in a lot behind the church complex, on America Street or in the parking lots parallel to I-110.



Bishop Brown

Email notifications and registration packets were sent out this week to all known delegates. We are eagerly awaiting more replies from Judicatory leaders for additional delegates to invite.

Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley – Opening Service held Jan. 27th



Around 60 people gathered in the small community of Welcome, LA (in St. James Parish) for the opening service of the 2018 Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley held on Saturday, January 27, 2018. The event was hosted by Mount Calvary Baptist Church, with prayers offered by many pastors whose church members have been affected by the higher rates of cancer in the Cancer Alley area. The LIC Stewardship of the Environment Commission is partnering with the LA Bucket Brigade and others in addressing these concerns.



Event photos courtesy of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade

Our LIC Executive Director, Fr. Dan Krutz was among those attending the event (see photo on left). Various participants gave first-hand accounts of how cancer has affected their lives and families. Please remember to keep the peoples of this petrochemical corridor area in your prayers.

The LIC Board of Directors passed a resolution at the 2017 Fall Board Meeting, designating 2018 as a Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley in Louisiana. Cancer Alley is a well-known area along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which contains numerous industrial plants. In this River Parishes area, higher than normal cancer rates of lung and kidney cancers are found, as well as an abnormally high rate of some rare cancers.

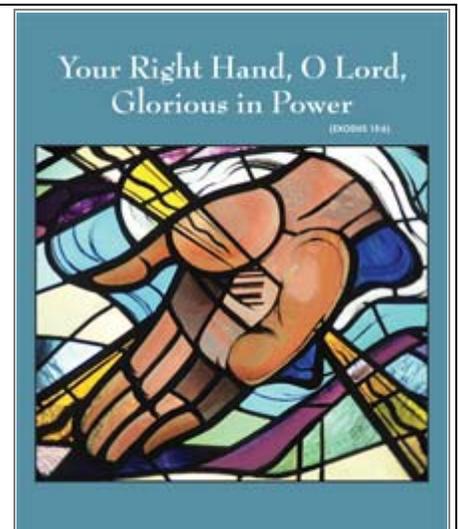
Week of Prayer – Another event to be held tonight

In Celebration of the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity “That they may all be one!” a Vespers service will be held for the Forefeast of the Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon - the Presentation of the child to Simeon in the Temple.

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018
at 6:30 PM, at St. Basil’s Antiochian Orthodox Church
3916 Hudson St, Metairie, LA 70006**

A reception will follow in the Church Hall, with a brief presentation by Rev. Buddy Noel, Ecumenical Officer of the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, on the topic, *What We Hold In Common*, with the Orthodox response by Rev. Peter Nugent, Pastor of St. Basil’s.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held annually from January 18th through January 25th, with some events scheduled before or after those specific dates. Unity has no date restrictions!

Faith and Creation Care Workshop – March 1st in New Orleans

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference is partnering with the **Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition** to offer an education event for clergy, lay leaders and others on the topic of being more effective in our care for creation. The goal of the training is to prepare clergy and others in leading congregations to become educated about climate science and to recognize its impact on our daily lives.

The event will take place on **March 1, 2018**, at the office of the National Wildlife Federation, 3801 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, **from 9am till 1pm**.

Please mark your calendars! For more info. please contact the [Rev. Dr. Cory Sparks](#), Chair of the LIC Stewardship of the Environment Commission.

Criminal Justice program awarded a grant for 2018

We are pleased and thankful to report that the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation has awarded the LIC Commission on Criminal Justice a \$20,000 grant for the year of 2018, to fund the work of the CCJ Commission in furthering efforts in addressing prison reentry and other criminal justice reform efforts. With this grant, the LIC has hired a part time worker, Ms. Stephanie Gaskill, who is the point person of the program. We welcome Ms. Gaskill to the LIC crew!



Offering thanks to our recent contributors

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

Contributions received from December 18, 2017 through January 29, 2018:

Criminal Justice Program: Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation.

Bread or Stones anti-poverty initiative for children: Tina and Corey Callais; and Rev. Nancy L. Andrews.

Endowment Fund for Christian Unity: John & Ellen Pecoul; Rev. James Morrison; Rev. Susan Gaumer; Mr. Louis McHardy.

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: John & Ellen Pecoul; and Rev. Nancy L. Andrews.

Sabbatical Fund/Continuing Education Fund for the Executive Director: Penrose St. Amant.

Thank you!

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal at <http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm>.

Dates to calendar

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

March, 2018	March 5-6, Baton Rouge - RESERVE THE DATES!! 😊 We hope to see you there!
2019	March 11-12, Lafayette

Fall Board meeting dates:

2018	Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles
2019	Sept. 23-24, Monroe

“To live the faith we hold in common”

Louisiana Interchurch Conference
527 North Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 344-0134 www.lainterchurch.org

President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz

You are receiving this message because you have previously expressed interest in the work of Louisiana Interchurch Conference. **We hope you enjoy our newsletter!** However, if you'd like to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter, please [click here](#) or call us at: (225) 344-0134.