**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA**

**COMMISSION FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION**

***“TO PROMOTE RACIAL RECONCILIATION THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE AND THE COMMUNITY,***

***BASED UPON A COMMITMENT TO LIVE OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT”***

**INTERIM REPORT FOR JANUARY – SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD WERE:**

Lindsey Ardrey (St. George’s N.O.)

Orissa Arend (Trinity N.O.)

Joyce Barefield (St. Andrew’s N.O.)

Trevor-David Bryan (St. Luke’s N.O.)

Edgar Cage (St. Michael and All Angels B.R.)

Patricia Corderman (Trinity N.O.)

Lee Crean (St. George’s N.O.)

Lynn Crean (St. George’s N.O.)

Rev. Maggie Dawson (St. Martin’s Metairie)

Rev. Patrick Edwards (St. Margaret’s B.R.)

Fortunata Jefferson (UBE Representative)

Rev. Dan Krutz (St. Francis Denham Springs)

Rev. James Morrison (St. Andrew’s N.O.)

Richard Saxer (Trinity N.O.)

Susan Spillman (St. James B.R.)

Rev. LeBaron Taylor

Rev. Edward Thompson (All Souls/St. Luke’s (N.O.

**SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

**BETWEEN JANUARY, 2015 AND SEPTEMBER 2015 INCLUDED:**

* At the Diocesan Convention in March, the Commission was successful in passing several resolutions that affected both the work of the Commission and the future direction of the Diocese in the areas of racial reconciliation and social justice.
* After five years in the position, Lee Crean resigned as Chairman. The Commission chose Rev. Patrick Edwards and Trevor-David Bryan to serve as Co-Chairs and their appointments were approved by Bishop Thompson. Mr. Crean is remaining as a member of the Commission.
* In what has become an annual event, the Commission presented a Service of Reconciliation January 17, the weekend of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King holiday. The Service once again drew a large congregation to the Cathedral. In the Bishop’s absence, The Very Reverend David A. duPlantier served as the Officiant, and Pastor Antoine Barriere, *Household of Faith Church,* was the Preacher.
* Many of the members, who had known him personally, were saddened by the death of the former Co-chairman of the Commission, Rev. Keith Johnson, who had been serving as the rector of historic St. Phillip’s Church in Harlem since leaving St. Luke’s in New Orleans.
* Ms. Fortunata Jefferson, President of the newly-chartered Curtis Sisco Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) was seated on the Commission, representing that organization, and assuring that UBE can profit from the support of the Commission. UBE New Orleans will be the host of the national convention of UBE in the late summer of next year.
* Under its new leadership, the Commission will be embarking upon an ambitious initiative to involve every congregation in the Diocese in the ministry of racial reconciliation. This effort will involve parish-level meetings, programs and workshops, in addition to Diocese-wide events. It will also involve collaboration with many other organizations, mainly religious, but sometimes secular, in coordinated endeavors to eliminate race- and ethnic-based discrimination from all of the communities served by the Diocese of Louisiana.

**Respectfully submitted on September 30, 2015 by:**

 **Rev. Patrick Edwards Trevor-David Bryan**

Co-Chairmen, Diocesan Commission for Racial Reconciliation.

*Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of those in the Diocese of Louisiana, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*