

Report to EDOLA

LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE (LIC)

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Executive Director: The Rev. C. Dana Krutz

To Live the Faith We Hold in Common

Originally formed in 1970, and today with a membership of 16 Christian Churches, and an Associate Member – The Order of St. Lazarus, and including representation from Church Women United, the LIC seeks greater Christian Unity through sharing a common faith in witness, worship, study, and service. The 49th Annual Assembly of the LIC was held on March 11-12, 2019, at the Immaculata Center in Lafayette, LA. The theme was: ***“The Church--Race, Migration and Immigration”***, with keynote speaker Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. Additional speakers were Susan M. Weishar, Ph.D. (of JSRI in New Orleans) and Mr. Dauda Sesay, a refugee originally from Sierra Leone. Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones, Sr., of the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of LA, was installed as President during the ecumenical evening worship service. The Diocese was represented at the Assembly by EDOLA Ecumenical Commission member, **Mr. Hugh R. Straub**, who serves as a delegate and as a Judicatory Leader for the Order of St. Lazarus. **Bishop Morris Thompson** serves as a Board Member.

The LIC Fall Board meeting of September 23-24, 2019, was held in West Monroe, LA, at the Hampton Inn. Keynote speaker, **Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tunes**, Chief Operating Officer for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, presented on the theme: ***“The Black Church, Prophetic Ministry and Social Justice.”*** We invite you to visit our website for information on these and all Annual Assembly/Board Meeting presentations.

We encourage all to celebrate the annual observance of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (Jan. 18-25th, 2020) *“They Showed Us Unusual Kindness”* (from Acts 28:2). We hope that each church will take leadership for 2020 in coordinating events in their respective areas. Mr. Samuel Rottman works on a contract basis to help coordinate the **Bread or Stones** campaign to equip congregations with practical ways to reduce child poverty. Please visit www.breadorstones.com to join the campaign. The **Stewardship of the Environment Commission** continues advocating for the Restore Act that involves coastal restoration by working in coalition for rebuilding the gulf coast. The **Criminal Justice Commission** continues to focus on implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act for adult offenders, and ending capital punishment in Louisiana. Through a grant received, Dr. Stephanie Gaskill is doing a research project within in-depth studies of persons convicted of violent offenses and some with sex offenses who've completed their incarceration. The project grant is entitled: The ***“Worst of the Worst.”*** The project is to learn how those re-entering society have been helped or hindered by the faith community. **Farmer's Advocate**, Mrs. Betty Puckett, stands ready to assist farm families on an as-needed basis.

Largely funded by the member churches we are grateful for the support of the Diocese of Louisiana and its commitment to ecumenical relationships that keep before the churches Christ's vision of unity in mission, service and witness.

Our website is: www.lainterchurch.org