

LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE (LIC)

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Report to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Executive Director: The Rev. Dan Krutz

To Live the Faith We Hold in Common

The **50th** Annual Assembly of the LIC was held on March 2-3, 2020, at the Catholic Life Center in Baton Rouge, LA. The theme was: ***“Visioning for Unity, Striving for Justice”***, with keynote speaker **Jim Winkler**, President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches. The Diocese was represented at the Assembly by LIC Board Member **Bishop Morris Thompson**; **Rev. Stephen Craft**, Board Member at Large; and EDOLA Ecumenical Commission member, **Mr. Hugh R. Straub**, who serves as a delegate and as a Judicatory Leader for the Order of St. Lazarus.

On September 22, 2020, the LIC Board held its annual Fall Board Meeting as a virtual Zoom meeting due to COVID-19. Follow up Zoom meetings will be held to continue discussing the theme: ***“Reimagining the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.”*** Our Consultant, **Dr. Craig Gilliam**, is helping to guide the Board Members in collaborating to review LIC’s current ministry and imagine the future direction/s of LIC’s mission and ministry, as a step along the way of a transition to a new Executive Director, as Fr. Dan Krutz is scheduled to retire at the conclusion of the Annual Assembly in 2022.

The **Bread or Stones** campaign’s on-going mission is to equip congregations with practical ways to reduce poverty among children and their families. Mr. Rob Gorman serves enthusiastically as volunteer Chair for this and for the LIC Public Policy Task Force. Mr. Samuel Rottman works on a contractual basis to help coordinate the campaign. We encourage all churches to visit **www.breadorstones.com** to join this campaign for the children of Louisiana.

**BREAD or STONES**

The theme for the 2020 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** was: ***“They Showed Us Unusual Kindness”*** (reference Acts 28:2). With the focus of celebrations occurring mainly during the week of January 18th - 25th annually, it was commemorated with several events around the state. We encourage you to start now to plan events for your area for next year. 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. **Farmer’s Advocate**, Mrs. Betty Puckett, stands ready to offer advice to farm families on an as-needed basis. Through the generosity of Farm Aid, LIC offers small emergency grants to farm families facing tragedies or disasters. 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 last year, Dr. Stephanie Gaskill finished up a research project this summer regarding in-depth studies of persons convicted of violent offenses and some with sex offenses who’ve completed their incarceration. The project grant was entitled: the ***“Worst of the Worst.”*** The goal was to learn how those re-entering society have been helped or hindered by the faith community.



Formed in 1970, and today composed of 16 Christian Denominations, Associate Member - The Order of St. Lazarus, and Church Women United, the LIC seeks greater Christian Unity through sharing a common faith in witness, worship, study, and service. Largely funded by the member churches, we are grateful for the support of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and its commitment to ecumenical relationships that keep before the churches Christ’s vision of unity in mission, service and witness. The member churches strive to proclaim the Gospel message ***To Live the Faith We Hold in Common.***

Visit us on the web at: www.lainterchurch.org or <https://www.facebook.com/lainterchurchconf>.