

## **Report of the Ecumenical Commission**

### **To the 185<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

Ecumenical work is important to the life of the Church. It allows Christians to have a deeper understanding of each other as one holy catholic and apostolic Church. Members of the commission engage much of this work through active participation in the Louisiana Interchurch Conference. The LIC meets several times a year to discuss and work through various social ministry issues throughout the state. Members also participate in various local ecumenical groups many of which are starting to become more active post covid.

Not only is ecumenism important within Christianity, much work is done in the interfaith world as well. Our ecumenical and interfaith brothers and sisters have been involved in ministries with the poor and homeless. Several interfaith services are held for various reasons each year in which we are active participants. One of the most important I believe is an annual service for the homeless who have died while living on the street. I was the preacher for this service last December. It is a very moving service, and I recommend it to everyone.

On the national level, for many years now we have had a representative active in the National Workshop for Christian Unity. At this meeting, ecumenical officers from each diocese are invited to meet together with members of the Presiding Bishop's ecumenical staff to compare notes and discuss ongoing endeavors of General Convention such as full communion with The United Methodist Church and The Presbyterian Church USA. Then, we meet with the groups from these other churches to listen to one another and discuss the issues involved.

Like many other things, our traditionally very busy ecumenical calendar has been scaled back these past two years. However, I know of plans to get back to pre-covid activities, and I look forward to an active 2023 for ecumenical and interfaith work

Submitted

The Rev. Stephen Craft

Chair