



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

E-Newsletter

July 31, 2018

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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Director's Corner

*Article from our
Executive Director,
Rev. Dan Krutz*



The Church and Advocacy

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Historically, the churches, other Faith communities, and people organized to overcome injustice have been the impetus to change public policy to create a more just society. One of the most significant instances of this influence is the Temperance movement. The movement to create alcohol free zones not only in the U.S. but around the world has had an enduring impact on the Churches and to a degree upon society as whole. We might also mention the suffrage movement leading to the right to vote for women in this country. There are other arenas where people of Faith have sought to make changes in public policy, and most notably in the movement to abolish slavery. It is this movement, of course, that led to America's Civil War. One could justifiably argue that the act of freeing the slaves saw America at one of its greatest moments of living up to its ideals enshrined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Even with a somewhat pedestrian understanding of our history, it does seem that the grand project of America to create the conditions where a just and loving society may thrive is way out on the horizon. When this noble experiment is cast within the framework of the Gospel and Teachings of Jesus we also know that we people of faith have failed to live into the Gospel Values of faith forgiveness, love and mercy that could transform peoples, institutions and their infrastructure. The Love Command is realized in part when we agree to "do unto others as you would have them do to you." Admittedly, all of this is much more easily said than done. Where do we go from here?

One of the concrete steps we are taking in the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will take place during our Fall Board of Directors Meeting at the St. Charles Retreat Center in Moss Bluff just North of Lake Charles. Some would describe this retreat center as the place Jesus had in mind when he invited the disciples to “come away to a deserted place and rest awhile.” Our hope and prayer is that we will rest with Christ and one another as we prepare to be sent out to do the work of Advocacy upon behalf of the “voiceless and the powerless” among us and to work alongside those seeking change in public policies in our State and region that we and others can fulfill the Commands of Christ.

During our gathering Mr. Rob Tasman of the Louisiana Catholic Conference will offer two addresses to help guide us through steps that can make us more effective advocates. Our plan is to have legislators join us for a session during our meeting to hear them share their thoughts on the legislative process and ways the churches can take the lead in involving members actively to exercise their citizenship. We also hope to hear from some of our judicatory leaders and their views on the Church and Advocacy. In addition to our board members, clergy and lay leaders of the member churches of the LIC and their guests are welcome to attend these important sessions on advocacy. Our hope is that we all might achieve a greater understanding of our role as advocates and be equipped to exercise this ministry as part of our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ.

In Need of Prayer



Our sympathy to the family of Rev. Jeff Day. In the May newsletter we had submitted a prayer request for Rev. Jeff Day's wife who was very ill, fighting Lymphoma. On July 23, 2018, Rebecca Day passed on. She was 73. We offer prayers for and condolences to all of the family. Obituary link:

<https://obits.theadvocate.com/obituaries/theadvocate/obituary.aspx?n=stella-rebecca-raburn-day&pid=189600282&fhid=17443>.

Rev. Day is the former director of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge. Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge.

Our Administrative Assistant, Lorraine Grout, had a small stroke following a problem with a colonoscopy back on June 29th. After testing, trying to find out what was causing lingering problems, the stroke was found. She is undergoing more testing and is still working, but requests prayer for the numbness, etc. that will take some time to resolve.

Fall Board Meeting – hope to see you there!

The LIC Fall Board Meeting will be held on September 24-25, 2018 at the St. Charles Retreat Center in Lake Charles. We've updated the theme a little:

“Living out the Word through Advocacy”

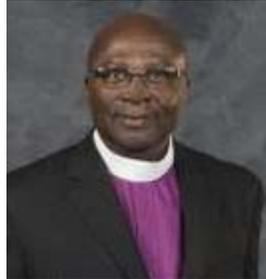
As always, guests are invited to attend all speaker sessions. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Rob Tasman, Executive Director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, which represents the Louisiana bishops at the state legislative sessions concerning bills involving social justice and family life issues. Mr. Tasman received his bachelor's degree from Boston College, a Jesuit university. He received his master's in theology from Boston College in 2004 and a law degree from LSU in 2008.

Invitation packets have been sent to all Board Members (if you did not receive your packet

please let us know asap!). And remember, the public is invited to all speaker sessions at no cost. Hope to see you there!

We'll be providing more schedule information in the next newsletter.

Elections/Appointments... and Goodbyes



Bishop King



Rev. Alexander

Congratulations and welcome to Bishop C. James King, Jr., who has been appointed as the new Bishop of the 4th District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The Fourth District covers the (Mississippi and Louisiana Regions). The previous bishop, Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., has been relocated to serve the Sixth Episcopal District (Georgia Regions). We look forward to working with Bishop King. We knew at the time of the March Annual Assembly that Bishop Brown would soon be relocated and were fortunate enough to have a chance at that gathering to be able to bid him a very fond farewell. Additionally, Rev. Denise Anders-Modest, who previously served as the Board Designate for Bishop Brown, has recently moved to Tennessee. She had served as Board-Designate for the CME since 2015. We will miss her as well, but wish her success in her new ministry endeavors.

Congratulations and welcome to Rev. Edward Alexander, Jr., who became the new President of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention earlier this month, replacing Dr. C. S. Gordon whose term was expiring. We will miss Dr. Gordon's leadership, but look forward to working with Rev. Alexander. Rev. Alexander is the pastor of Christian Baptist Church in Lake Charles, and also has a Bible Teachings radio broadcast on Z-16/1580AM. Our Executive Director, Rev. Dan Krutz, was pleased to be able to attend recent annual conventions where he met both Bishop King and Rev. Alexander. Below is a picture of Dr. Gordon, Rev. Alexander, and Rev. Dan Krutz, taken at the recent LMBSC Convention.



AOL Email phishing / hacking problem

We apologize to anyone who may have received bogus emails coming from the LIC email address. Since AOL has instituted their required new AOL "GOLD" program we have had some issues with hackers getting in. Under the new AOL program, multiple users can sign in at the SAME time and even if we changed the passwords in our system/AOL, the hacker could still get in using the old password/s. We have and are still taking steps to stop this invasion. We are no longer saving passwords in our systems. Please note that if you receive emails with no message or a brief message directing you to odd website links or manufacturer links, these are not from the LIC. Additionally, should you receive an email indicating someone is in a foreign country or other distant location and is in dire need of funds, etc., this is also a phishing attempt. Please do not respond to those emails nor click on the links. Immediately delete them. Thank you!

Volunteer Training to Help Those with Disabilities

Subject: EVERGREEN LIFE SERVICES: Evergreen Mission Outreach Training Workshop Nov 3

There will be a Volunteer Management Training on Saturday, November 3 from 10 AM - 2 PM at the Ponchatoula office of Evergreen Life Services. The focus will be to help representatives of churches/synagogues from across South Louisiana (from border to border and up as far as Alexandria) to establish volunteer programs to help serve people with disabilities in their communities.

The specific training offered will be to help with Evergreen's Day Programs and Community Homes. However, the training can be applied in whatever setting the church community feels most suitable. Media kits will be ready in mid-August. **Please contact Constance F. Anderson, M.Ed.**, Director for Donor Relations, Southeast Louisiana | C: [\(225\) 337-3460](tel:(225)337-3460) | O: [\(985\) 467-8088](tel:(985)467-8088) 40052 N. Hoover Road, Ponchatoula, LA, 70454. Website: <https://evergreenls.org/locations/southeast-louisiana-division/>

Offering thanks to our recent contributors – we couldn't make it without you all!

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 June 27, 2018 through July 30, 2018:

Bread or Stones Children's Anti-Poverty Initiative: Presbytery of the Pines; United Methodist Church (special offering received at the LA Annual Conference gathering); and Madre Annie Etheredge.

Friends of the LIC and General Fund Contributors: Dr. Cory Sparks.

Thank you all!

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>.

The 50th LIC Annual Assembly will be held in Baton Rouge in 2020

At the LIC Executive Committee Meeting on July 26th, it was decided that the 50th LIC Annual Assembly will be held in Baton Rouge. The LIC was formed in Baton Rouge in February of 1970 at a meeting at the Catholic Life Center and so plans are being made to return there for the 50th Anniversary Assembly. (New Orleans or Houma were previously scheduled as possibilities for the 2020 Assembly, but will be rescheduled for other years in our rotations around the state.) It's not too early to reserve the dates: March 2-3, 2020!

Dates to calendar

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

2019		March 11-12, Lafayette
2020		March 2-3, Baton Rouge

Fall Board meeting dates:

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

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*President: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey; President Elect: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*