

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

E-Newsletter May 26, 2016

“To live the faith we hold in common”

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Article from our Director

For freedom Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1)

Pentecost Day marks a transition in the church year, and Memorial Day marks a transition in a way in the seasons of the year. Of course, we remember in thanksgiving and gratitude those veterans who've sacrificed their lives on behalf of our country. We pray for an end to wars and violence. We also recognize this day/weekend every year marks the unofficial beginning of the summer season. And parenthetically, since school starts up in many schools and colleges in early to mid-August, it makes more and more sense to welcome Summer now. Summer is a time when many more people take vacations, or take part in different activities than at other times of the year. There are also summer camps for children and youth, and there is a trend as well toward offering different camps for adults. Camps and other summer time events provide us an opportunity to consider whether or not we want to take another direction or continue on the path we've taken in our lives.

There are also big meetings that occur during the months of late spring and summer. This is the time of the year when churches throughout the country—many of them—have major meetings. The United Methodist Church just finished its quadrennial meeting in Portland, Oregon. A number of leaders in the UMC ask for our prayers as their Church continues to struggle with questions of human sexuality which causes tensions that at times threaten a sense of unity. This is certainly something the other denominations including Episcopalians, Lutherans and Presbyterians have also struggled with too. Perhaps, we might offer our most effective witness by keeping one another in prayer for God's grace to meet the challenges that come to us, and to give thanks for bonds of unity in Christ we already share.

In our best moments maybe transitions offer us the opportunity to renew our lives. Summer is a time when we have the opportunity for recreation of the spirit in a number of ways. We can indeed take vacations and enjoy those journeys that take us away from our usual surroundings. When we return, often we appreciate being home even more and discover new appreciations for the things that seemed to go unnoticed in the past.

We also need times for the spiritual renewal of our lives, and there are so many ways we can experience that renewal. Recently, a friend who heads a nonprofit was really struggling over financial cuts, and that struggle made me think of how important it is at times to back away from our positions of responsibility to get a fresh look at the challenges we face. In taking a break or enjoying Sabbath time we often find ourselves realizing once again that ultimately we do what we can—sometimes by ourselves and often with others-- and leave the rest to God.

We have three National holidays over the next few months: Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. They each speak to some aspect of freedom. There is political freedom, freedom as a citizen, and, of course, the desire for economic freedom through our labor. There is also spiritual freedom. Those other expressions of freedom are essential to wellbeing, but without spiritual freedom where would we be? It's through our relationships with one another and through our relationship to God in Christ that we discover the freedom we seek. Let us give thanks to God for those freedoms we enjoy and the fullness of life God desires for all people.

Rev. Dan Krutz

In Sympathy

Our condolences to the family of **Gene Kulakosky**, father of Peter Kulakosky and father-in-law of Rev Jean Marie Peacock, who passed away on Friday, May 13. His obituary may be found at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pressconnects/obituary.aspx?n=eugene-kulakosky&pid=180000698&fhid=13280>. Our prayers remain with this family.

Rev Jean Marie Peacock serves the Louisiana Interchurch Conference as Board Designate for the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

[A farewell dinner for Dr. Mackintosh - June 10th](#)

A retirement dinner will be held for the Rev. William H. Mackintosh, M.Div., Ph.D., on Friday, June 10, 2016 at Loyola University in New Orleans. Dr. Mackintosh has long been a supporter of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference and has been consistently active in both ecumenical and interfaith relations. He founded Interfaith Communications International in 1976. Originally located in Colorado, but moved to New Orleans in 1983, the organization has supporters that range as far away as Australia and the U.K. For those wishing to attend the dinner, an rsvp is required with an advance tax-deductible donation of \$40.00 per person. Contact: icioffice@yahoo.com for more info.



We wish Dr. Mackintosh many happy years in his retirement. We will miss his gentle humor and commitment to ecumenical ministry.

[Welcome to Rev. Donald Longbottom of the UCC](#)



Rev. Dr. Donald Longbottom,
SCC-UCC Designated
Conference Minister

Source: SCC-UCC article by SCC Board President Dan De Leon 4/20/16

The South Central Conference Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ is pleased to announce the call of the Rev. Dr. Donald Longbottom to serve as **Designated Conference Minister** in service to the South Central Conference. His start date as DCM is June 1, 2016.

A DCM is different from an Interim CM due to the fact that a DCM retains the option to submit her or his name to the search committee for the settled CM position when the opportunity presents itself.

Dr. Don, as he is affectionately called, grew up in Yuma, Arizona and graduated from Arizona State University with both a Bachelors and Masters degree in Political Science. After working the next few years, Dr. Don attended Golden Gate Seminary where he graduated with honors. His first congregation was Immanuel Baptist Church in Alameda, Ca. While serving this congregation, he was accepted into the PhD program at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Ca. His field of study was social ethics. Ultimately, Don received his doctorate in 2001 from Andover Newton School of Religion.

Later he was attracted to the Mennonite Church over issues of social justice as defined by the life of Christ. After having served Mennonite congregations in Ohio and Kansas, he served as a chaplain at Prairie Psychiatric Hospital in Newton, Kansas. Since 1991, Dr. Don has served throughout the United States as a Senior Minister in the United Church of Christ. His final settled ministry was at Countryside Community UCC, a 2,000-member congregation.

Rev. Dr. Longbottom currently lives just north of Phoenix with his spouse Mary Ann and his 91-year-old mother, June. They have two beloved Vizslas (aka Hungarian Pointers). Dr. Don is a lifelong Cowboys fan having attended ASU during the Danny White era.

May Clergy Day in Baton Rouge

On May 5, 2016, Clergy from the Baton Rouge and surrounding areas were invited to a gathering on the steps of the State Capitol for a day of information, action, and inspiration on topics that included: Predatory Lending; Minimum Wage; Equal Pay; Raise the Age; and other pertinent legislation that impacts faith based congregations and the communities they serve.

Among the LIC representatives that attended were: Executive Director, Rev. Dan Krutz; President, Rev. Dr. C.S. Gordon, Jr.; and Board Member, Rev. Herman Kelly.

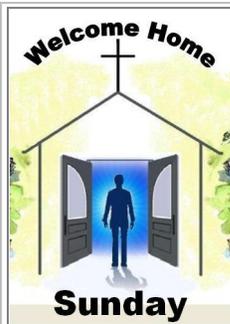


Clergy Day at the State Capitol

Photo courtesy of Rev. Dan Krutz

Please continue to remember our State in prayer!

Welcome Home Sunday – save the dates!



Sunday **August 7th**, 3pm

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
185 Eddie Robinson Sr. Dr., Baton Rouge, LA

Sunday **September 4th**, time t/b/a

Dillard Chapel
Dillard University, New Orleans, LA

A day in each of these cities, set aside for welcoming citizens returning from prison. Please save the dates! You'll be seeing more news about this as the dates draw nearer.

We invite you to go to <http://www.lainterchurch.org/#WHS> for info. on the Inaugural Welcome Home Sunday event that was held in New Orleans on May 31, 2015.

Prison Ministry Volunteers meeting June 25th

**Looking to volunteer in prison ministry? Already a volunteer?
All are welcome at a Baton Rouge meeting:**

Messengers of Hope . . . Prison Ministry Volunteers

is a program being sponsored by the Catholic Charities Office of Prison Ministry on **Saturday, June 25, 9:30 – 1:00 pm** in Room 206 of the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center on Acadian Thruway in Baton Rouge. Anyone currently involved with Prison Ministry, or anyone seeking more information about volunteer opportunities is encouraged to attend. To RSVP and for more information, email Linda Fjeldsjo at lfjeldsjo@ccdibr.org or call (225) 336-4406.

Bishop Muench will celebrate mass at 8:30 am in the St. Joseph Chapel for those who wish to arrive early.

[Bread or Stones Coordinator Chosen](#)

Bread or Stones Coordinator job position filled

We are excited to announce that Mr. Samuel Rottman will soon begin work as the Coordinator for this anti-poverty initiative for children. The LIC was awarded a grant to fund the salary/ expenses of a Coordinator for the Bread or Stones Campaign for one year (and we are very hopeful that we will be able to obtain additional funds after that). After diligently reviewing candidates for the position, the LIC board unanimously approved Samuel, who will be moving to the Baton Rouge area and will begin work on July 1st.



As Mr. Rottman assumes this position he will be reaching out to the LIC member churches as well as non-members around the state. We eagerly anticipate this as the effectiveness of the Bread or Stones Campaign will be greatly enhanced. We encourage all to be responsive and actively involved!

[World Refugee Day - June 20th](#)



"Refugees are people like anyone else, like you and me. They led ordinary lives before becoming displaced, and their biggest dream is to be able to live normally again. On this World Refugee Day, let us recall our common humanity, celebrate tolerance and diversity and open our hearts to refugees everywhere." *Ban Ki-moon*

For individuals, congregations

[May, 2016 – Source, Episcopal Diocese of LA] In 2000, the United Nations named June 20 as World Refugee Day, deeming it an annual opportunity to celebrate the resilience and success of the former refugees who bless our communities with their wisdom and irrepressible spirit and to examine the root causes of violence and persecution that force people to flee at an alarming rate.

This year, The Episcopal Church, in partnership with congregations, volunteers and our network of 30 local affiliate offices in 26 states will welcome more than 5,000 refugees to the United States from 32 countries, from places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burma, Afghanistan, and Syria.

"With more than 60 million displaced people across the globe, our work to welcome refugees to the United States is more important than ever," commented Deborah Stein, Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries. "To raise awareness and support, Episcopalians across the church are encouraged to find a local World Refugee Day activity or plan one of their own."

The following are suggestions, ideas and resources to observe World Refugee Day:

- Join Episcopal Migration Ministries and Episcopal Public Policy Network on May 12 at 7 pm Eastern for a #RefugeesWelcome World Refugee Day planning free webinar: register [here](#).
- Find a local World Refugee Day event on our interactive events map [here](#).
- Host a #RefugeesWelcome dinner to support new Americans living in your community; ideas are [here](#).
- Lift up prayers for refugees in your congregation. Worship materials are [here](#).
- Start a conversation in your congregation and community about how you can be involved in this life-saving work. World Refugee Day bulletin insert and planning materials found [here](#).
- Volunteer for this life-saving ministry through one of our local partners. The affiliate network map is [here](#).
- Join the Episcopal Public Policy Network to learn more about how you can work with local

and elected leaders to support refugees; info [here](#).
All resources are [here](#).
For more information, contact Allison Duvall, Manager for Church Relations and Engagement, aduvall@episcopalchurch.org, 212-716-6027.

Prayer for World Refugee Day

Written by #ShareTheJourney pilgrim Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Ministry Director and Contemporary Music Director at Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands, Texas:
Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity. Amen.

On the web: [Ways and resources to observe World Refugee Day on June 20](#)

[Resources from the Federal Trade Commission](#)

Helpful information and **free** publications available from the Federal Trade Commission:

Below are some free consumer education materials that may be useful to your member churches – particularly those with community programs:

- [High School Diploma Scams](#) – warns people about scammers who are setting up fake diploma sites to trick you into paying for their “diplomas,” which turn out to be worthless: You can use this blog post as your own information for newsletters or other communication: [Looking to get a high school diploma? Watch out for scams.](#)
- [College Degree Scams](#) - warns people about diploma mills, scammers selling fake degrees from unaccredited schools. You can also use all the FTC’s articles as your very own.
- [IdentityTheft.gov](#) – since many people reentering society may have had their identities stolen or compromised while incarcerated, identity theft is something to be diligent about. This site allows people to report identity theft, create an affidavit of the incident(s) and generate a personal recovery plan. There’s also information on avoiding ID theft. Here’s an article you can use – again, as your own, to spread the word: [Report identity theft and get a personal recovery plan at IdentityTheft.gov.](#)

All the FTC’s resources are free of charge and copyright-free; you can use them as your own. All materials are available in Spanish, as well.

Here are a few other links to resources:

- www.ftc.gov/bulkorder (free materials, including free shipping)
- www.consumer.gov (easy-to-read materials)
- www.consumer.ftc.gov (main website for FTC materials, blog, videos, etc.)

Our thanks to Lisa Lake of the Division of Consumer & Business Education, Federal Trade Commission, in Washington, DC, for supplying us with this information.

[Sign up for the FTC's newsletter.](#)

[June 1st-Day of Prayer for Protection from Hurricanes](#)

Please join us in prayer for ongoing protection from the potential dangers of the upcoming Hurricane Season. We are very thankful to God for answering these prayers year after year. The LIC and Louisiana Interfaith Disaster Recovery Network (LIDRN) have sent a request to Governor Edwards to sign the **11th annual proclamation** to proclaim June 1st as a Day of Prayer for Protection from Hurricanes. We hope to have the proclamation soon and will then post it on the LIC website.



Offering thanks to our recent contributors

Approximately 90% of our operating income comes from Judicatories. Their faithfulness in prayer and financial support is always appreciated. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

Contributions received from April 29, 2016 through May 26, 2016:

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Rev. Bob Hildebrandt; Rev. Jan H. Curwick; Dr. Harold R. Penton; Rev. Jeff Day; Dr. & Mrs. Kenny Crump; Rev. Msgr. Carson LaCaze; & Rev. Marie Williams

Sabbatical and Continuing Education Fund Contributor: Mrs. Ann Ball

Scholarship Fund to help with Board Meeting Registrations: Mrs. Ann Ball

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>.

Additional dates to calendar

Memorial Day, May 30th. We remember our heroes who sacrificed everything.

Commission on Criminal Justice Meeting, June 22nd, Baton Rouge, LA

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

2017		March 6-7, Monroe
2018		March 5-6, Baton Rouge

Fall Board meeting dates:

2016		Sept. 26-27, New Orleans
2017		Sept. 25-26, Alexandria
2018		Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles

“To live the faith we hold in common”

*Louisiana Interchurch Conference
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(225) 344-0134 www.lainterchurch.org*

*President: The Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr.; President Elect: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*

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