



E-Newsletter

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

February 27, 2018

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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Article from our Director

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Isaiah 58:6

One of the graceful things to come out of the latest school shootings in Parkland, Florida is the passion with which the survivors, their families and members of the Community there have come together to give voice to. Tragically, those voices were silenced by an unstable young person with a gun. I think these young people are courageous, maybe more courageous than the generations that have come before them and who are the people in power. Might doesn't make right. It seems that, more often than not, might and power corrupt—at least the power that comes from the politics of money and power. I join with those who believe that there has got to be a better way to face these heart wrenching events than giving guns to teachers. I am tired of gun lobbies spending millions and millions of dollars to silence and emasculate members of Congress and the lawmakers in the States. Like a serpent, the smooth and convincing talk of lobbyists, their wallets loaded with money behind the mask of the status quo, weaken the knees of those who should stand up. So, the injustice continues, the death and pain continue with strength based in the hands of these, well—oppressors.

A friend once said to me that real religion news is not in the religion section; it's everywhere else and, perhaps, most assuredly, on the front page. The tragic stories like those from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School need the response of people of faith. Answers to complex problems are never easy. How easy it is to remain silent! But God calls forth: Proclaim a Fast! Call a solemn assembly. Something must change. Some of us may have a deaf ear, afraid or intimidated, and certainly in my own life, those responses to injustice and violence have been latched onto by me. Maybe Lent is about taking on Fasting in a different less common way.

When we see people in power who are deliberately and habitually circumventing the right of our citizens to have affordable health care, especially when these lawmakers have their own health care paid by the electorate; we should give voice to these inequities. We should "fast" from ignoring opportunities to speak up for the voiceless, but advocate, plea and shout for those silenced. It's the right, the faithful thing to do.

When those in power resist change that would allow mostly African Americans incarcerated like slaves, the opportunity for pardon and parole, then we are called to speak up.

Each of us probably has a list of things God is putting before us, where God wants us to speak with a voice of faith and to witness; so, this Lent giving voice to the voiceless is a way we are invited to take up the Cross and follow Jesus. Perhaps, to carry the Cross every step we make.

Rev. Dan Krutz

Annual Assembly – It's the place to be on March 5th-6th!



The 48th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will be held **March 5-6, 2018**, in Baton Rouge, LA

Theme:

“Outlines of the Future Shape of Christian Unity”

This year's Annual Assembly will be held at the historic [First United Methodist Church](#), 930 North Blvd., in downtown Baton Rouge, LA.

As always, Guests are invited to all speaker sessions & the evening worship service

Public Schedule: Speaker Sessions on Monday, March 5th will be held from 2:30 to 5:00pm and on Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30am. Evening worship at First UMC will begin at 7:30 that Monday evening. *Parking is available in the UMC parking lot on America Street (behind the church). There is also a smaller parking lot to the side of the church (on East Blvd. by the Interstate).*

Monday's presentations will focus on: **“The implications of Laudato Si' for the Church.”**

This document is authored by Pope Francis, *On Care For Our Common Home*. We invite you to read/review this important text on the Environment at this link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html. There is a handy audio version for people who want to listen to it while driving, etc., at: http://villagedoings.com/wp-cafe/?page_id=505.



Dr. Smith

The **Keynote Speaker** for the Assembly will be **Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Ph.D.**, a Catholic theologian working in scholarly and pastoral roles in the Boston area. Her work in ecumenism stems from analyses of Christian ecclesiology, one focus being the doctrine of Apostolic Succession. She holds a Ph.D. in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America, as well as a Master of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Music from Boston University. She has authored various publications and papers on ecumenism; has reading competency in Spanish, German, Greek, & Latin; and has traveled extensively around the world.

Evening Ecumenical Worship Service, Monday, March 5th

Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will preach the sermon with leaders from many other denominations participating as well. Service begins at 7:30 in the main sanctuary of First United Methodist Church.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Again, free parking for the speaker sessions and for the evening worship service is available in the UMC lot behind the church complex, on America Street, or in the parking lots parallel to I-110.



Bishop Brown

BOARD MEMBERS – Have you registered for the Annual Assembly yet?? Please do so asap if you haven't yet! Thanks!

Regional Meetings for LA Partnership for Children

	<p>Louisiana Partnership for children & families</p> <p>Connecting the Dots for Children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging Partners for Prevention • Bridging Gaps in Services • Sharing Best Practices
<p>2018 REGIONAL MEETINGS!</p> <p><u>February 27</u> - Houma Region in Gray</p> <p><u>March 1</u> - Acadiana Region in Lafayette</p> <p><u>March 1</u> - Southwest LA Region in Lake Charles</p> <p><u>March 2</u> - Florida Parishes Region in Covington</p> <p><u>March 5</u> - Central LA Region in Alexandria</p> <p><u>March 6</u> - Capital Area Region in Baton Rouge</p> <p><u>March 7</u> - Northwest LA Region in Shreveport</p> <p><u>March 8</u> - Northeast LA Region in Monroe</p> <p><u>March 9</u> - Southeast LA Region in New Orleans</p>	<p>RSVP TODAY!</p> <p><u>Download a statewide flyer listing all sites to share.</u></p> <p>The 2018 meetings are convened by the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families with generous support from the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation and the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	

February through April – quick list of Justice Reform & Anti-Racism events

March 2, 2018 Baton Rouge. Justice Reform - **Pre-Legislative Session Summit**, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, 10AM - 2PM, at the Southern University Events Center, 730 Harding Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70807. Coordinated by LPA (Louisianans for Prison Alternatives), LA CURE (Louisiana chapter of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) and VOTE (Voice Of The Experienced). For more info., go to: [Facebook event link](#) **PLEASE REGISTER** at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScleO-IJZuC0wZRViAiVJdSNb16_YBdbkYLvR0_bpsJfhRDIA/viewform?usp=sf_link

March 3, 2018 Baton Rouge. LA CURE (Louisiana chapter of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) Legislative session workshop on Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 10-2pm at the Catholic Charities Building, 1900 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA. Email [Mr. Checo Yancy](#) for more details.

March 6, 2018 New Orleans. Overview of the FBI's Civil Rights and Community Outreach Programs, hosted by the Archdiocesan Office of Racial Harmony. Guest speakers are: Ms. Lori Chauvin, FBI Community Outreach Specialist, and Mr. Ron Reed, Supervisory Special Agent - FBI Civil Rights Supervisor & Civil Rights Program Coordinator. Presentation begins at 1:15 pm on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Lunch Room, 1st Floor (location is subject to change), 7887 Walmsley Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125. Seating is limited. Please email RSVP to: wcastillo@arch-no.org.

March 27, 2018 Baton Rouge. Justice Reform – **Lobby Day**, at the Louisiana State Capitol, meet at the Louisiana Capitol Welcome center, 900 North Third street at 9am. The Louisiana Interchurch Conference is joining with LPA (Louisianans for Prison Alternatives), LA CURE (Louisiana chapter of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants), and VOTE (Voice Of The Experienced), for this Lobby Day. For more info. [contact the LIC](#).

April 3-5, 2018 Washington, D.C. Anti-Racism Summit – **ACT Now To End Racism**. Please visit the event website, rally2endracism.org, to learn more and plan on being in Washington, DC, April 3-5 to be part of this powerful series of events. The LIC is working on chartering a bus to make it more affordable for those interested in traveling from the Baton Rouge area. Please contact the LIC for more info. on the bus.

Environmental News

The Faith & Creation Care Workshop that was scheduled for March 1st has been postponed. We will let you know when a new date is scheduled.

In the meantime, please reserve **April 3, 2018** for a **Coastal Day** at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge. More info. to come later.

Dr. Herman Kelly receives the Kumba award for 2018

Dr. Herman O. Kelly, The Pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, LA was chosen to receive the Kumba Community Member / Organization Award as part of the 2017-2018 LSU Black History Month Celebration by the LSU Barney African American Cultural Center. Each year, they acknowledge individuals who embody passion, dedication, and commitment to Service. Dr. Kelly was nominated by Dr. Lori Martin, Director of African and African American Studies at LSU. The award recognizes the connection between The Academy and The Community. The award was presented on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the annual Clarence Barney, Jr African American Cultural Center's Jazz Brunch at LSU in Baton Rouge, LA.

The Rev. Dr. Herman O. Kelly is the Board Designate for the AME Church serving on the Louisiana Interchurch Conference Board of Directors. Congratulations!!



Rev. Herman Kelly

A simple way to help the homeless



In cold or wet weather, we often think of those without shelter and wonder "What can we do?" Coordinating with organizations currently serving in these capacities, we can help make a difference. Things like soap, shampoo, blankets, towels, and clothing are always needed. This photo reminder of these needs, was sent to the LIC by the Rev. Dr. Herman O. Kelly. Rev. Kelly is pastor of Bethel AME and a Board Designate for the AME Church serving on the Louisiana Interchurch Conference Board of Directors.

The Women's Missionary Society of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and members collected blankets and socks to take to the St. Vincent de Paul Homeless Shelter in Baton Rouge. In photo on the left, Mrs. Linda Kelly, President, presents items to Shelter staff.

Offering thanks to our recent contributors

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 January 30, 2018 through February 26, 2018:

Sabbatical Fund/Continuing Education Fund for the Executive Director: Order of St. Lazarus, in thanks for participation at the Feast of St. Lazarus.

Endowment Fund for Christian Unity: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Houma; Jane Snyder; Rev. Marie Williams; Rev. Wayne Carter; Bishop James B. Brown; Rev. William Jeff Day; Bishop Michael Jarrell; Rev. Don Piraro; Kenny & Shirley Crump; Bertrand & Marian Griffin; and First United Methodist Church of downtown Baton Rouge.

Friends of the LIC and General Contributions: Rev. Constance Saizon.

Annual Assembly - general help with expenses: Fr. Mike Moroney.

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>.

Future Board/Assembly Dates to calendar

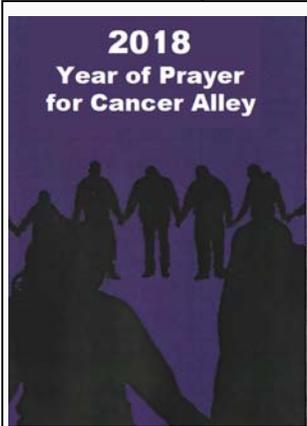
Annual Assembly meeting dates:

March, 2018		March 5-6, Baton Rouge - RESERVE THE DATES!! 😊 We hope to see you there!
2019		March 11-12, Lafayette

Fall Board meeting dates:

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

Please keep in mind – 2018, a Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley



A Sample Prayer:

Yours, O LORD, is the glory; for all in the heavens and the earth is yours. We give thanks for the Mississippi River in Louisiana. We're grateful for the people of the region - many have lived there for generations. We acknowledge that industry has polluted the land, air and water. We have failed to protect our workers and turned communities into Cancer Alley. Bless them Lord. Send your spirit to pluck them out of the snare, so they can lead with integrity and our community can be blessed.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Great Physician. Amen

The LIC Board of Directors passed a resolution at the 2017 Fall Board Meeting, designating 2018 as a Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley in Louisiana. Cancer Alley is a well-known area along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which contains numerous industrial plants. In this River Parishes area, higher than normal cancer rates of lung and kidney cancers are found, as well as an abnormally high rate of some rare cancers.

“To live the faith we hold in common”

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

*President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*

You are receiving this message because you have previously expressed interest in the work of Louisiana Interchurch Conference. **We hope you enjoy our newsletter!** However, if you'd like to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter, please [click here](#) or call us at: (225) 344-0134.