



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

L-Newsletter

July 2019

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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Director's Corner

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



Striving for Justice, Peace and Unity

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:29)

As some of you are aware the Louisiana Interchurch Conference was formed in February of 1970 at its initial Assembly at the Catholic Life Center in Baton Rouge. Plans are underway to observe the 50th Anniversary of the LIC back at the same location in the Capital City. One of the key figures in that history was the Rev. James L. "Jimmie" Stovall who served as Executive Director from 1976 till 1991. During his ministry the LIC grew in membership and in the breadth of its ministries. Though he was very interested and committed to the advancement of the movement toward unity through overcoming our differences in doctrine and governance, Rev. Stovall was also a leader who was deeply committed to the goal of achieving unity and peace with one another through social justice.

In 1990 toward the very end of his ministry with the LIC Rev. Stovall—much of this above and beyond his work with the LIC--helped to form the Louisiana Coalition against Racism and Nazism (LCARN). The main target of the coalition was to oppose and stop David Duke who during his college days at LSU in the late sixties became known for wearing a Nazi uniform around campus. Duke later founded in Louisiana the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and in 1990 he used these systems of racism and hate to run a Campaign for the U.S Senate and then in 1991 to run as a Candidate for President. Rev. Stovall at times was a one-man army preaching the Gospel and condemning racism and neo-Nazism to whomever would hear him and for that matter to those didn't want to hear him! The Amistad Research Center at Tulane University has troves of materials in its archives on the work of the Coalition.

Though I was not aware of it, 26 years later in 2016, the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism was reactivated once again to stop David Duke in his unsuccessful campaign to replace David Vitter as a U.S. senator from Louisiana! A statement on LCARN'S website reads: "It's a sobering reminder that the struggle for racial, religious, and ethnic goodwill is never really done. And it's why we've decided to reactivate the Louisiana Coalition: to affirm the values of democratic decency and civility against champions of white nationalism and racial anti-Semitism. Please help us stop this racist neo-Nazi one more time."

Our common ministry in Christ to realize the Oneness for which He prayed is also a continuous Calling. Each of us may respond differently to the current state of our society with respect to Racism and anti-Semitism that is so pervasive, but it seems fairly clear to me that the voice and witness of the Church is needed. May God give us the courage to witness to our Faith when the Spirit leads us. It seems to me that silence is not an option.

In Need of Prayer



Mr. Roy "Pete" Puckett, husband of LIC Farmer's Advocate, Mrs. Betty Puckett, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Earlier this month they went to MD Anderson's in Texas for further review and to schedule treatment options. Treatment will be done in Louisiana, helping to ease the travel burden. Betty is doing well in her own fight against Chronic CML Leukemia. Last year, two of their grown children died within about 6 months of each other. Please keep Roy, Betty and their family in prayer.

Our condolences to LIC Board Member Rev. Steve Craft, after the passing of his mother, **Mary Beth Craft**, who passed away on July 16, 2019. Rev. Craft is the Board Designate to the LIC from the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. The funeral for Mary Beth Craft was held this past Saturday in Columbus, Mississippi. An additional memorial service celebrating her life will be held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in New Orleans on Saturday August 3, 2019, at 11 a.m. Please keep the Craft family in your prayer.

Fall Board Meeting – speaker has been chosen

September 23 – 24, 2019

Working Theme is:

“The Black Church, Prophetic Ministry and Social Justice”

As always, guests are welcome at all speaker sessions.



The Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune

Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker will be *The Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune*. Dr. Copeland-Tune was recently hired to fill the newly-created position of Chief Operating Officer for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. She is one of America's notable ecumenical leaders and is a tireless advocate for peace and justice. A New York native, she was ordained into the ministry 20 years ago and has worked for a number of faith-based organizations.

All business meetings and speaker sessions will be held at the Hampton Inn, 601 Mane Street (yes, "Mane" Street), West Monroe, LA 71292. The **first Speaker session begins at 3:15 on that Monday**, (for Board Members – the first Business Session begins at 2pm); with all events concluding by noon on Tuesday. [Click here for overall tentative agenda.](#)

The evening ecumenical worship service of 9/23/19 will be held in Monroe, LA, at Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, 500 Swayze Street, (318) 322-8587. Hosting pastor and evening preacher is the Rev. Oliver W. Billups, Jr. (*The church celebrated their 70th Church Anniversary on February 24, 2019 – congrats to them all!*) **Guests are invited!**

Meet Ms. Natasha Smith - recently elected to the LIC Board



LIC Board Member
At Large

**Ms. Natasha
Smith**

of the Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Some of you have already met Ms. Smith when she attended the Annual Assembly in March of 2019 as a first-time delegate, where she was also elected as a Board Member at Large. We invite you to learn a little more about her. Ms. Smith was kind of enough to supply us with the above picture and the below bio:

Natasha Smith is the Business Manager for Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Westwego, LA and Holy Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Bridge City, LA. She has held the position of Business Manager since January 2019. Additionally, she serves as the Sacristan at Our Lady of Prompt Succor and has served in that role since October 2018. She participates in Ecumenical and Interfaith dialogs at the direction

of Father Buddy Noel. Currently, she is the Chairwoman of a committee on the Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission of New Orleans that oversees the making of Blessing Bags for the homeless.

She is a graduate of both Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic School and L.W. Higgins Sr. High School graduating in May of 2005. She studied at both UNO and Delgado Community College.

Natasha is the proud mother of two girls, Theresa Marie, age 12 and Natalie Marie, age 3. They both attend Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic School. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her daughters, watching movies, and bringing a smile to the faces of her kids.

New Chair for the LIC Stewardship of the Environment Commission



Rev. Kristina (Kris) Peterson

**appointed Chair of the LIC
Stewardship of the
Environment Commission
July 19, 2019**

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Kris Peterson as the new Chair of the LIC Stewardship of the Environment Commission. LIC President, Dr. Timothy Jones, appointed her late last week. Rev. Peterson has been involved with the work of Commission and with other aspects as well of the LA Interchurch Conference since August of 1992. LIC Executive Director, Fr. Dan Krutz, met her after Hurricane Andrew came ashore in Louisiana that month. She and Dick (her husband) had been Disaster Consultants with Church World Service which at that time was part of the National Council of Churches. Kris brings to her Chair position, years of experience and active advocacy in caring for our environment.

An ordained United Methodist Elder, she and her husband, Rev. Dick Krajewski, are Presbyterian and serve as the pastors at the First Presbyterian Church Bayou Blue (PCUSA) in Gray, Louisiana (near Houma).

Crisis Clean-up after Hurricane Barry

A hotline for Crisis Cleanup was activated prior to TS/Hurricane Barry making landfall based on the predictions for impact. Because the impact was less than originally anticipated (Praise the Lord!!!!), the response to the Crisis Cleanup hotline has been also less than originally anticipated when the decision was made to activate it. Due to the very low utilization of the hotline, it will deactivate Wednesday, July 24th with missed calls being returned through Friday, July 26th. (It was originally set up to operate through August 1st.)

As of 7/20/19 there were a total of 156 cases statewide documented with a few being duplicates and some already closed. There were 127 open cases. We have not had reports of any churches from the LIC membership having been damaged by Hurricane Barry. ***However, the Presbytery of the Pines reports that they are still dealing with effects of the Ruston tornado of April 25th; please keep them in prayer.***

The Crisis Cleanup toll-free hotline for the public to call, effective through July 24th is **844-965-1386**. All requests that come through that hotline will be placed on the shared map at crisiscleanup.org, so cleanup teams can plan their responses.

For the **Disaster Distress Helpline** (through U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services), call **1-800-985-5990**, text "**TalkWithUs**" to **66746**, or [click here](#) for the website.

Additional Resource:

If your home floods, NOLA Tree Project has a [Step by Step Flood Clean Up video](#)

Victims of Human Trafficking – BLUE Campaign

During the month of July, the [DHS Blue Campaign](#) in collaboration with [Polaris](#) is hosting a four-part [Facebook Live](#) series (two of the events had already transpired at the time of this newsletter printing). The series included four Facebook Live events that aired over consecutive weeks covering topics that will help identify suspected trafficking and accurately report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (see schedule below for the last 2 events). All events will be on DHS Blue Campaign's [Facebook profile](#).

July 24, 1PM EDT | What Human Trafficking Looks Like: Labor Trafficking

We'll be live with Polaris to discuss the common types of labor trafficking in the U.S. and indicators of this crime.

July 30, 1PM EDT | Human Trafficking Survivor Success Stories: How Your Tips Can Save Lives

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, we'll be live with Polaris to hear stories of human trafficking survivors who received help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline.



Faith and Community Toolkit on Human Trafficking

[DHS Blue Campaign](#) and the DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives developed the *Faith-Based and Community Toolkit*, a human trafficking resource for the faith community. This toolkit provides tips and resources to engage houses of worship and the community to help raise awareness of human trafficking and how to be trauma responsive to the needs of victims or those vulnerable to harm. The Toolkit is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Learn more about other [DHS Blue Campaign Resources](#), including the [General Awareness Training Video](#).

Bishop Fabre celebrating 30 years of Priesthood

On August 5, 2019, Bishop Shelton J. Fabre will celebrate 30 years of priesthood. Bishop Fabre serves as the Judicatory Leader to the LIC from the Roman Catholic Diocese as the Fourth Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux and has been very faithful and active in his service to the LIC.

Bishop Fabre is a native Louisianan, born in New Rhoads; he was the fifth of six children. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Stanley Ott in Baton Rouge Aug. 5, 1989. Ordinations were usually done in June, but he was away completing his Master's degree in Belgium at that time, so his ordination was delayed until August. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006 and ordained as such in February of 2007. He was then appointed and installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in 2013. He likes to title his articles that come out in the Diocesan monthly magazines as "Comfort For My People."

Congratulations on this 30-year milestone in Christian service!

50th LIC Annual Assembly – start planning now!

When: March 2 – 3, 2020

Where: Catholic Life Center, Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA

We would like to see a minimum of FIVE and even up to FIFTY! representatives from EACH of our member communions. Please start planning now! The public will be invited to all speaker sessions.

The LIC was formed in Baton Rouge in February of 1970 at a meeting at the Catholic Life Center and so plans have been made to return there for the 50th Anniversary Assembly.

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.

Contributions received from June 21, 2019 through July 23, 2019:

Friends of the LIC: Bishop Charles M. Jarrell; Rev. William (Jeff) Day; Dr. Wayne Carter; Dennis & Sharon Edmon; & Jane Snyder.

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>.

Dates to Calendar

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

2020	March 2-3, Baton Rouge – 50 th Annual Assembly – don't miss it!!
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Fall Board meeting dates:

2019	Sept. 23-24, Monroe
2020	Sept. 21-22, Shreveport

“To live the faith we hold in common”

*President: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones; President Elect: The Most Rev. Douglas Deshotel;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*