Have a safe and Happy July 4th!

Contents:
- Reconciling our Past for a Renewed Future (Article from our Director)
- New Interim General Presbyter for Presbytery of the Pines
- Poverty rates worsen again for Louisiana children
- Fall Board Meeting – Save the Dates!
- Offering thanks to our recent contributors - we couldn't make it without you all!
- Board Meeting Dates to Calendar

Reconciling our Past for a Renewed Future

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Most all of us will readily admit that the year 2020 has already brought many challenges to the degree that it’s hard to remember when such tumultuous change has occurred in such a short time. Of Course, we still have six months to go in 2020! While the pandemic of the Corona Virus continues to plague the people of our nation and the people of nations around the world, we also are contending with the event of the death of George Floyd that has served as a catalyst in calling into question the progress of racial justice and racial reconciliation in America. We now have a resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement and other racial and justice advocates who are exercising their civil rights in protesting and witnessing for change. This movement too has its advocates in nations around the world.

When the Apostle Paul was striving to bring together disparate and competing factions within the congregation of Corinth, he went much deeper than saying the people and their leaders must get along and make peace. The Apostle went to the very foundation of the community’s origins to identify that it is only through the passion, death and
resurrection of Christ, that Christians can be truly reconciled. It is this great act of love and self-giving that that taught the world a life-changing lesson but also gave hope for a renewed humanity.

With the recent social unrest, soul searching and uncertainty in America as we approach another anniversary of the birth of our nation, we are called to look at our past and to realize that we much to do yet in the ministry of reconciliation. In the Declaration of Independence, we hear the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Though many of us will have difficulty accepting it, to me the tragic death of George Floyd has laid bare the truth that we have a long way to go before the equality of people of color is a recognized reality and a realized truth. This is America’s biggest blindspot, but through the tragedy and hurt we have seen within our own eyes, this moment holds the promise of a new beginning for all of us.

Another modern day apostle and martyr Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a powerful address to a divided nation said, I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I believe this is a moment when the divine spirit is breaking through, intervening through willing vessels of fragile human flesh, to shatter the darkness of centuries of slavery and abuse leading us to the light of the freedom and equality our founders were envisioning in the Declaration of Independence. It’s meaning is become clearer day by day. May this Independence Day be one when each of us will step forward into the light of that new day.

Rev. Dan Krutz

---

New Interim General Presbyter for Presbytery of the Pines

Rev. Dr. George Wortham

On May 1, 2020, Rev. Dr. George Wortham, replaced Rev. Joe Hill who retired effective April 30th, from serving as the General Presbyter for the Presbytery of the Pines. George has been a member of Pines Presbytery since 1981 and served as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Jonesville, LA, the Presbyterian Church in Crossett, Arkansas, and Highland Presbyterian Church in West Monroe, LA. Her retired 12/31/19 as pastor of New Iona Presbyterian church in West Monroe.

Rev. Wortham is not new to the LIC. As Pastor of the Highland Presbyterian Church in West Monroe back in 2013, he hosted the LIC Fall Board Meeting for that year. We still remember his hospitality with appreciation!

We welcome Dr. Wortham as a new Board Member (Judicatory Leader) of the LIC!
Poverty rates worsen again for Louisiana children

Last year in June we reported a substantial increase in poverty rates for children. This June we are seeing that trend continuing to worsen, per information from Save the Children as reported in the Baton Rouge business report on June 22, 2020.

**Last place:** Humanitarian aid organization Save the Children has ranked Louisiana as the worst state for children to live in America based on four factors: hunger, dropping out of school, teenage pregnancy and early death due to poor health, accident, murder or suicide, *The News Star* reports. Louisiana’s dead-last ranking was the result of a *26.5% state child poverty rate* (*some reports list that at an even higher percentage*), showing as the nation’s second highest; 23% of children lacking adequate access to food, the nation’s third-worst hunger rate; one of the nation’s highest rates of infant deaths; the third-highest teenage pregnancy rates in the U.S.; and the 10th-highest rates of child homicides and suicides. *Read the full story.*

---

*Fall Board Meeting - Save the Dates!*

**September 21-22, Shreveport, LA**

We're going back to Peaceful Rest!

On left is a photo of many of the attendees at the first LIC Board Meeting held there - back in March of 2016.

**Working Theme is:**

*“Reimagining the Louisiana Interchurch Conference”*

As always, guests are welcome at all speaker sessions.

All business meetings and speaker sessions will be held at Peaceful Rest Missionary Baptist Church, address 8200 St. Vincent Ave. in Shreveport, LA. The first Business Session begins at **2:00 pm that Monday**; with all events concluding by noon on Tuesday.

We have invited Dr. Craig Gilliam to join us as our Consultant. Dr. Gilliam will be helping to guide the Board Members and attendees in collaborating to review LIC’s current ministry and imagine the future direction/s of LIC’s mission and ministry. This is a step along the way of a transition to a new Executive Director, as Fr. Dan Krutz is scheduled to retire at the conclusion of the Annual Assembly in 2022. The results of our work during the board meeting will be presented for consideration at the 2021 Annual Assembly. Your input is wanted/needed!
Save the dates!

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 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020:**

**Friends of the LIC donations:** Rev. Marie Williams; Fr. Mike Moroney; Irma Edwards; Rev. & Mrs. Larry Miller; Earline Blackmore; Bp James B. Brown; Dennis Edomon; Carl Jackson; Frank McArthur, II; Dr. Kris Peterson; Mary G. Harris; Marie Ducote-Comeaus; Bp Michael Jarrell; Bp Shelton Fabre; Rev. Samuel Tolbert; Dr. Kenny Crump; Jane Snyder; Dr. Marian Schwab; and one anonymous giver.

**Bread or Stones Anti-Poverty Initiative for Children donation:** Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Women.

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](http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm).

---

**Board Meeting Dates to Calendar**

**Fall Board meeting dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Sept. 21-22</td>
<td>Shreveport, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Sept. 20-21</td>
<td>Houma, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Sept. 19-20</td>
<td>Alexandria, LA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>March 1-2</td>
<td>Lake Charles, LA – 51st Annual Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>March 14-15</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA – 52nd Annual Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“To live the faith we hold in common”

President: The Most Rev. Douglas Deshotel; President Elect: The Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton; Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz