

LOUISIANA INTERCHURCH CONFERENCE (LIC)

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Executive Director: The Rev. C. Dana Krutz
To Live the Faith We Hold in Common

Originally formed in 1970, and today with a membership of 16 Christian Churches, Associate Member - The Order of St. Lazarus, and Church Women United, the LIC seeks greater Christian Unity through sharing a common faith in witness, worship, study, and service.

The 48th Annual Assembly of the LIC was held on March 5-6, 2018, at First United Methodist Church in downtown Baton Rouge, LA. The theme was: ***“Outlines of the Future Shape of Christian Unity.”*** The keynote speaker was: ***Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Ph.D.***, a Catholic theologian working in scholarly and pastoral roles in the Boston area. The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Bishop of the United Methodist Church-LA Annual Conference, was installed as President during the Assembly Worship service held at First UMC on Monday evening, March 5th. **Bishop Erik Gronberg** serves *ex officio* as a Board Member and **Mr. Joel Hicks** is his newly appointed Designate. Our sincere appreciation goes out to recently resigned Board members: **Pastor Dale Farley** who served for 27 years, beginning as a Regional Coordinator, then as a Board Designate and as a Secretary on the Executive Committee, and **Mrs. Arlene Lathrop** who served as a Delegate & then a Board Member at Large for 30 years.

The annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *“Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power”* (from Exodus 15:6), was commemorated with several events around the state. The LIC task force on Social Justice and Public Policy continues with its Bread or Stones campaign to equip member churches with practical avenues of reducing child poverty, especially in LA, but with TX in mind as well. Mr. Samuel Rottman is the coordinator for the program. We urgently request ALL Synod churches to become covenant partners in this program.

The LIC Board met in September in Alexandria, LA, and addressed the theme: ***“The Church, the Reformation and the Quest for Unity”***. The keynote speaker was ***Dr. Denis R. Janz***, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies at Loyola University, who is well versed on Martin Luther and the Reformation.

Among LIC Commissions, the Stewardship of the Environment continues advocating for the Restore Act that involves coastal restoration working in coalition for rebuilding the gulf coast.

The Criminal Justice Commission continues to focus on juvenile justice reforms, implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act for adult offenders, and ending capital punishment in Louisiana. Dr. Stephanie Gaskill has been employed as the coordinator for the new Seven Times Seventy Initiative, a program that provides an educational experience for people of faith that seeks to find ways to minister to those returning to society who were originally convicted of violent crimes and/or were sex offenders. Farmer’s Advocate, Mrs. Betty Puckett continues to work as a contract employee, ready to assist farm families on an as-needed basis.

Largely funded by the member churches, we are grateful for the support of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod of the ELCA and its commitment to ecumenical relationships that keep before the churches Christ’s vision of unity in mission, service and witness.

Our website is: www.lainterchurch.org.