

REPORT TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

ECUMENICAL REPORT

2019

COMMITTEE NAME: Ecumenical

CHAIR OR CONTACT PERSON: Rev. J. Patrick Peters

Rector – Saint Paul Episcopal Church, Columbia, PA
Convener – Lancaster Convocation

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEE LIAISON: Rev. J. Patrick Peters

Rector – Saint Paul Episcopal Church, Columbia, PA
Convener – Lancaster Convocation

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES LIAISON TERM END DATE: May 2020

DATE OF THIS REPORT: October 15, 2019

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE: To advance the cause of unity among the churches by encouraging ecumenical activities involving prayer and worship, Christian Formation, and social ministry together both with those we have full communion (to express this full communion) and with those we do not yet have full communion (to work toward full communion).

WORK PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2019:

- Represent the Bishop at all Council of Churches Board Meetings and report back to the Bishop on the board's activities, resolutions, plans, etc. To ensure that the views of the Bishop and the Diocese are known to the PA Council of Churches. I have attended these Board meetings twice a year – once in October and once in April.
- Represent the Bishop at the clergy LARC meetings and to report back to the Bishop on the group's discussion, activities, plans, etc. To ensure that the views of the Bishop and the Diocese are known to the LARC group and to work with the Bishop and the LARC group on education about LARC and to encourage participation by the congregations of the diocese. I attend the LARC meeting every other month and meet with both the Ecumenical representatives from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, the Upper and Lower Susquehanna Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and other clergy and lay people interested in LARC activities.

- To finalize a section of the Diocesan website for ecumenical information e.g., examples of ecumenical prayer and worship, Christian Formation, and outreach ministry that is going on in the diocese, links to ecumenical resources such as agreements that have been reached with various partners churches. I have not been able to accomplish this task.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST DIOCESAN CONVENTION

- LARC Vespers - Sunday, June 2, 2019 in Liverpool
- Council of Churches meeting – October 2018 & April 2019
- LARC Day of Dialogue – October 2018 – Violence in our Society
- LARC Day of Dialogue – October 28, 2019 – Division in our Society and our Church

Note: The enthusiasm for ecumenism seems to be lagging – and at time when it should seem most important. Attendance at LARC events has progressively gotten smaller; the efforts of the PA Council of Churches seems to attract only a core of people whose numbers are getting smaller and smaller. Even with our Full Communion partners, we seem to be retreating into our own world – giving lip-service to ecumenism but little else. We often simply do not have the time to do the work of ecumenism – beyond the occasional prayer or outreach ministry together. I have no answers – only the commitment to continue to work for unity.