

Ecumenical/Interfaith Ministries 2020-2021

We acknowledge with profound sadness the death of the Rev. J. Patrick Peters, late Diocesan Officer of Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries. May God's faithful servant rise in glory!

The year 2020-2021 was marked by the Covid pandemic. Nearly all in-person gatherings moved online or were cancelled.

The 2020 LARC (Lutheran – Anglican – Roman Catholic) conversation, usually convened in the spring, was postponed to a later date. The LARC leadership/planning group has tried to gather in 2021 without success, due to pandemic stresses. The next LARC Conference will likely be scheduled in winter 2021 or spring 2022.

The Rev. Joseph Seville has agreed to participate with Dean Welin in the ongoing ecumenical conversations with the Christian Communities Gathering in North East Pennsylvania. The discussions for the year to come will consider the care of creation. Participating faith groups will share their resources.

The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania has engaged in ecumenical and interfaith prayer with our neighbors across the Commonwealth on several occasions, thanks to the work and invitation of the Rev. Sandra Strauss of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Representatives of the Episcopal tradition are always invited to lead prayer.

In winter to spring 2021, we worked with the PA Council of Churches and some of our interfaith colleagues to address the eviction crisis in Harrisburg. A petition demanding action from the General Assembly was signed by ecumenical and interfaith allies across the Commonwealth.

We continue to explore opportunities to collaborate with our Christian and Interfaith neighbors. Currently, we are engaged in conversation with Catholic Charities and the Hadee Mosque (Harrisburg) concerning the possible resettlement of Afghan refugees in the Harrisburg area.

Respectfully submitted
The Rev. Dr. Amy D Welin