

Report to Diocesan Convention of Ecumenical/Interfaith Activities 2022

Just as most of our members build relationships and work across denominational boundaries, we have engaged in numerous ecumenical and interfaith activities on a diocesan level. This is a very rich and fulfilling ministry.

We have a longstanding relationship with the PA Council of Churches, and are often engaged in their programming and prayer services for days significant in our community life (for example, commemorating racial justice and The Rev Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., the role of women in the churches, and an annual interfaith prayer service).

The Episcopal Church in Central Pennsylvania was well represented at the regional celebrations of Pride, notably in Lancaster, Harrisburg, Hummelstown, and Williamsport. In Harrisburg, we worked to network with our neighboring congregations.

The ongoing Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue has re-developed its bi-monthly lunch meetings. The Rev. Joseph Seville has joined Dean Amy Welin at many of these meetings. (Any interested Episcopalians are very welcome to attend. Please contact Dean Welin for information). We are in the planning stage of a larger gathering, which is dependent on coordinating the schedules of four Bishops.

We have been invited to the Christian Community Gathering of Northeastern PA (CCGNEP), which involves a number of Christian groups, including: Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic, Polish National Catholic, Orthodox, and a few Protestant communities. The group meets quarterly in Scranton and discusses topics pertinent to social justice.

On September 17, Bishop Scanlan was an active participant in the Installation of the Rev. Craig Miller as the new Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We are finding that there is significant positive response in the Interfaith community to our diocesan initiative to address to gun violence. At the recent weekend programs in Lancaster and Harrisburg, the broader faith community was quite supportive. We are developing supportive relationships with allies in this initiative, notably with POWER, Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, and CeaseFire PA.

Respectfully submitted
Amy D Welin+